



# 'DEMON' STAB MAN LOCKED UP

Report by John Scott

**A PARANOID** schizophrenic who believed he was possessed by a demon when launching a ferocious knife attack has been sentenced to indefinite detention in a secure psychiatric hospital.

Tommy Smith can only be freed on the orders of the Home Secretary if, and when, doctors are satisfied that the 18-year-old's mental issues have been resolved.

The teenager's mental health disintegrated after alcohol and drug abuse, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

He was released from Werrington Young Offenders Institution in Stoke on home detention and curfew in January last year after being locked up for two knife-point robberies.

The following month Smith, then living in Grove Street, Dudley, stabbed 66-year-old Peter Churm at least ten times in the victim's driveway at nearby Owen Street.

Mr Churm was stabbed in the chest, side, head, neck and forearm. One of the victim's ears was split while the other had the lobe almost completely severed.

The attack was carried out with such force that Smith's eight-inch knife broke in two.

## Onslaught

Smith, who was short of money, launched the onslaught after Mr Churm refused to hand over the keys to his son's Range Rover on February 24 last year.

The defendant later told forensic psychiatrist Dr Jon Kennedy that he started suffering from hallucinations three weeks before the stabbing. Smith also claimed that at the time of the attack he was possessed by a demon.

It was accepted by the defence that Smith was the knifeman but he denied all charges claiming he did not know what he was doing.

He was acquitted of attempted murder but convicted of grievous bodily harm and burglary by the jury at a trial earlier this year.

Judge Amjad Nawaz ruled: "This young man is not only a danger to himself but those around him."

The judge imposed a hospital order with an added restriction that means the approval of the Home Secretary will be required for Smith to be set free, if doctors have decided he is safe to release. Smith will be held at Ashworth high security psychiatric hospital in Merseyside.

Following the hearing, Mr Churm's family said the attack had left him physically and mentally scarred.

It said: "Peter Churm is a husband, father and grandfather. The violent action of Tommy Smith has wrought havoc upon us all. The attack has changed the way we view our lives. We are a family still attempting to come to terms with such savagery."

## TWO-YEAR-OLD HARPER IS MOTHER'S MIDWIFE



The world's youngest midwife – Brave Harper, aged two, with her mother Natalie Poole, of Dudley, and baby sister Poppy

A TWO-YEAR-OLD turned midwife when she calmly helped her mother give birth to her baby sister at their Dudley home.

Demonstrating bravery well beyond her years, Harper Poole was the only other person at their Ashenhurst Road home when mum Natalie went into labour on Wednesday, June 8.

"It was all happening really quickly," said 34-year-old Natalie.

"I rang the hospital and I managed to get myself into the bath but I needed Harper to hold the phone to my ear.

"She was just so calm and didn't panic at all. She fetched warm towels and kept holding the phone to my ear throughout."

Before the emergency services arrived, Natalie gave birth to baby Poppy.

## Inseparable

"Harper stayed with me through it all," said Natalie.

"She said to me afterwards 'I saw the baby pop out mum!' None of it fazed her."

Mother, newborn and her courageous big sister are all doing fine and mum Natalie

thinks it may have created a special bond with the sisters now inseparable.

"Harper won't leave Poppy's side. They have a special bond already," she said.

Russells Hall Hospital employee Michelle Rushby visited Natalie and the girls for a post-natal check, and was amazed by Harper's calm involvement.

"It is fantastic," said Michelle. "I have never heard of anything like this before. We often hear about home births, but I have never heard of someone so young helping her mum to give birth. I am so proud of Harper."

## CRIME

### Arson attack on industrial estate

ARSONISTS struck at an industrial estate in Brierley Hill causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Four units were broken into on the Premier Partnership Industrial Estate, in Leys Road, Brockmoor, and one car was torched. The incident was believed to have happened on Wednesday at 4.20am. Distaught owners, who did not wish to be named, said it could have potentially put them out of business.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## HEALTH

### GP practice rated as 'outstanding'

A DUDLEY medical practice has been rated as 'outstanding'.

Eve Hill Medical Practice in Himley Road, which provides GP services to 7,100 patients, was rated as 'outstanding' overall by inspectors who visited in March.

The practice is one of only three that hold the outstanding rating across the whole of Birmingham and the Black Country. This financial year 28 Dudley practices have been inspected with 23 receiving an overall rating of 'good'.

## ROADS

### Stop and go signs during resurfacing

MOTORISTS have been warned to expect delays on a busy route in the Black Country for the rest of this week.

Traffic will be directed by stop and go signals on Hayes Lane, Lye, in Stourbridge until tomorrow (Friday).

Workers will be resurfacing the carriage-way, which joins a T-junction connecting to the busy A458 running between Stourbridge and Halesowen.

The work, not far from the Lye By-pass and opposite Bald's Lane, will take place outside of peak times but motorists have been warned delays will be likely during other periods of the day.

## INSIDE

### CELEBRITIES FLY THE FLAG



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# Spencer brands documentary 'deceitful'

A FORMER chief suspect has branded a documentary into the 1978 murder of Stourbridge paper boy Carl Bridgewater as 'deceitful'.

Bert Spencer, who has always denied killing the 13-year-old, criticised criminologist Professor David Wilson and the Channel 4 documentary for rehashing old allegations as new revelations.

Professor Wilson carried out a series of interviews with 76-year-old Spencer for 'Interview With A Murderer', which aired earlier this month. The criminologist spent more than 20 hours in Spencer's company.

Revelations in the programme prompted Dudley North MP Ian Austin to calls for the police inves-

tigation to be reopened. The shooting at Yew Tree Farm shocked the nation 38 years ago.

Last week Spencer said he 'categorically denies' the allegations after his ex-wife Janet, speaking publicly for the first time in the documentary, seemed to cast doubt on his alibi.

He said he 'had no involvement in this heinous crime' and any suggestion otherwise was 'hearsay and invention'. He described the programme as deceitful and accused Professor Wilson of being two-faced.

Spencer said he did not regret taking part in the documentary and claimed had been 'inundated' with supportive comments.

He said: "I do not run, I do not hide. I never will, no matter how difficult times like this become. I didn't have to take part in the documentary but had to so to put an end to these scurrilous allegations I've had to live with for almost half of my life.

A Channel 4 spokesman said: "Bert Spencer approached Professor Wilson via his biographer and asked him to interview him and challenge him. Spencer willingly agreed for these interviews to be filmed. We could not have foreseen the startling new revelations which have unfolded in the making of this film."

Professor Wilson declined to comment.

# Contracts exchanged over Merry Hill deal

**SHOPPING** centre property group Intu has exchanged contracts to buy the remaining 50 per cent of the 229-acre Merry Hill complex at Brierley Hill for £410 million.

Intu already owns the other half of the estate made up of the Intu Merry Hill shopping centre, two retail parks, office and leisure facilities and development land.

Intu has now exchanged contracts to buy the remaining half of the complex from the Queensland Investment Corporation.

Intu chief executive David Fischel said: "We are pleased to have been able to acquire the remaining 50 per cent interest in Intu Merry Hill, some two years after our original 50 per cent acquisition in 2014.

"Our ownership and asset management to date has provided us with ample evidence of the centre's upside potential, whatever the outcome of the EU referendum."

The purchase is due to complete in the near future.

## Loan

Intu arranged a £500 million loan, with a 2018 maturity, which will replace the current £191 million loan facility, maturing in 2017, secured on the 50 per cent originally held.

Retail space at Merry Hill totals 1.7 million sq ft spread between the 214-unit shopping centre (1.4m sq ft) and adjacent retail parks (0.3m sq ft).

Intu, which also owns the Lakeside and Trafford Centre shopping centres, spent £403.8m buying Westfield's half stake in Merry Hill.

Intu has plans for major improvements at Merry Hill and aims to improve the tenant mix.

The Merry Hill shopping centre was part of the massive redevelopment of the Round Oak Steelworks and neighbouring farmland in the 1980s, which also saw the Waterfront office complex built in Brierley Hill.

It was the brainchild of development twins Roy and Don Richardson and was created in one of the country's first new Enterprise Zones.

## Albion's oldest fan dies aged 108



Lifelong West Bromwich Albion Fan Jack Jones met Albion legend Tony 'Bomber' Brown at the Hawthorns last year

A BAGGIES superfan who was born just 30 years after the club was founded has died aged 108.

Tributes have been paid to Albion supporter Jack Jones, who lived through the reign of five monarchs.

Believed to be the oldest person in the Midlands, Jack was described as 'Albion through and through' by Baggies legend Tony 'Bomber' Brown.

Born in Enville on February 12, 1908, Jack attended his first Albion

match at the age of 12. Jack was a guest of honour at The Hawthorns in February last year when he celebrated his 107th birthday by watching his beloved Baggies beat Southampton 1-0.

In the Second World War Jack helped build Spitfires and later worked as a lorry driver. He married married Winifred in 1939 and was widowed in 1989.

His final visit to The Hawthorns included a meeting with one of his heroes, Tony 'Bomber' Brown.

He was also presented with a personalised shirt - Jack 107 - and a signed match ball by captain Darren Fletcher.

Nischa Pritchard, care manager at Tudor Manor Care Home in Stourbridge, where Jack had lived since 2013, said: "Jack always enjoyed talking about his memories supporting the Albion."

Tony Brown said: "He was a delightful man, a great man and tremendous character who was Albion through and through."

# Man cleared on charge of attempted murder

A JURY has found a Dudley man accused of pushing his former girlfriend from a third storey window not guilty of attempted murder.

Marlon Bills, aged 44, stood trial at Birmingham Crown Court after Lisa Turner, also 44, fell from the window in Himley Road, Dudley, on December 10, last year.

Miss Turner was found on the ground outside a block of flats in a critical condition having sustained a spinal injury and broken ankle.

Bills was also accused of resisting police arrest.

The court had heard that when police arrived at the scene Bills was arrested inside his flat, during which he was found to be in possession of a knife and was Tasered by officers.

## Harm

Returning their verdicts on Monday, the jurors found Bills not guilty of attempted murder, but he was found guilty of the lesser charges of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and attempted wounding with intent to prevent lawful apprehension.

He had also previously pleaded guilty to breaching a restraining order.

After hearing the jury's verdict, Judge Patrick Thomas QC adjourned the sentencing so that a pre-sentence report can be prepared on Bills.

Bills will remain in custody until he is sentenced on August 3.

# Match raises £400 for hospital unit

MORE than £400 has been raised for a children's hospital unit by a school football match.

Pupils and staff from Old Swinford Hospital, Stourbridge, took to the field for the game.

The money was raised at the schools' annual Staff versus Leavers charity match, where the year 13s won 5-3.

Organisers say as this was the second defeat for the staff with rumours rife that training has already commenced for next year.

The players are presenting a cheque to the Neonatal Unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

Dudley Group NHS charity's fundraising manager, Karen Phillips, said: "Funds raised to support the neonatal unit are invaluable in so many ways."

# Dentist plan for former nursery site

A FORMER nursery in Stourbridge will be converted into a dental surgery after planning chiefs gave the green light.

Work can now start on the old Saint Day Care Nursery site in Holcroft Road, Oldswinford, involving demolition of out buildings.

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## Now learning hub is hit by an invasion of caravans

TRAVELLERS have moved onto their caravans onto the car park of a Dudley community centre — just days after a group was moved on from a nearby park.

Around 20 caravans set up on the car park of the Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Learning Centre and Library Link community centre on Friday evening.

Ward councillor Bryan Cotterill said he had spoken to management at the centre.

Councillor Cotterill said: "I was informed on Friday that around 20 caravans had set up camp on the car park of the Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Learning Centre.

"I don't know where they have come from, travellers seem to be everywhere in Dudley at the moment.

"I will be speaking with our legal representatives at the council to see if we can get them moved along as quickly as possible.

"Having spoken to management, they are going to have to play it by ear on whether they want to call off the youth club meeting."

Travellers were moved on from Priory Park in Dudley on Thursday, while camps were also recently set up on Woodside Park and Hurst Green Park in Halesowen.

The camp is the latest in a variety of cases in Dudley this year. Earlier this year camped on the cinema car park at the bottom of Castle Hill and caravans also moved onto the car park at Dudley Leisure Centre.

## Yob damaged park by driving truck

A TEENAGER took a dumper truck and drove it around a Stourbridge park, causing substantial damage.

Jobless Scott Beaman, aged 19, drove the truck around Mary Stevens Park, which was undergoing a £3.1 million revamp at the time.

The teenager from Penfields Road, Stourbridge, was ordered to carry out 40 hours of supervised unpaid work for taking the vehicle without consent.

Dudley Magistrates Court heard that considerable damage was caused in the popular park.

Beaman was also ordered to pay £330 compensation and costs and was disqualified from driving for 12 months.

## Homes proposed next to farm site

NINE new homes are proposed for a site next to a farm in Stourbridge, under new plans.

An application for the homes to the rear of Old Farm, County Lane, has been lodged with Dudley Council.

# Construction centre on course to open



Stourbridge College head Wendy Stevens

WORK has begun on a £1.5 million Construction Centre at Stourbridge College, which will open to students in September.

The Construction Centre will provide state-of-the-art learning facilities for carpentry and joinery, plumbing, gas and electrical installation, and the built environment, which includes construction management and surveying.

The investment will allow Stourbridge College to increase full-time student places on construction and related courses to 350, plus offer ad-

ditional apprenticeships. The building provides a purpose-designed centre of excellence to study in.

### Skills

Wendy Stevens, head of Stourbridge College, said: "Our new Construction Centre is an exciting development for Stourbridge College enabling more students to benefit from state-of-the-art facilities and gaining the skills and qualifications they need.

"Increasing our student body will further invigorate the college with students having access to all of our

resources and support services, including careers advice and guidance with university and job applications."

The contractor for the refurbishment of the new centre is Speller Metcalfe, with Worcester Bosch providing curriculum specific equipment that students will use.

This refurbishment completes a £14 million investment by Birmingham Metropolitan College across its construction and engineering facilities, which include the Erdington Skills Centre and Sustainability Centre at James Watt campus.

# Council to shut its last residential care home

## THE LAST council-run residential care home in Dudley is to close.

Cash-strapped Dudley Council has approved a move to close Russell Court Residential Intermediate Care Home in September.

This will put 62 jobs at risk and forcing its nine permanent residents to move.

Council chiefs have ruled the care home will be shut on September 30, as part of a move to save £500,000 in 2016-17.

By closing the home on Overfield Road, they expect to make £1 million in savings for 2017-18.

The decision has infuriated UKIP Councillor Paul Brothwood, who fears it will lead to more 'bed-blocking' in local hospitals.

He said: "Time and time again the council makes short term decisions to either close or privatise care homes, and it is only putting more pressure on the health service.

### Crisis

"The NHS is in a state of crisis and if people can't get out of hospital into care homes like this then beds will continue to be blocked."

Russell Court is Dudley's only remaining residential home for older people which is solely managed by the authority. It serves as a stepping stone between hospital and home, with a maximum of 23 intermediate patients at the home at any one time.

Those employed at the home include managers, senior care officers, business support staff, domestics, kitchen staff and care assistants. There are also three therapists.

Transfers, redeployment and voluntary redundancies are proposed for the staff 'to keep the need for compulsory redundancy to a minimum'.

Chiefs said the care home was in need of 'substantial updating' to bring it up to required standards. A quote last year put the cost of refurbishment at £1m.

Councillor Qadar Zada, council cabinet member for adult social care, said: "Over recent years Russell Court has moved from providing long term residential care to intermediate care on a short term basis. It does, however, now need substantial work to update it to the required standards for intermediate care and the decision has been taken to close it.

"The well-being of our residents is of the utmost importance and the council will support the nine residents to transfer to alternative homes."

## Peak performance to boost charities



Ian Austin and Mohammed Hanif with the team who will be flying the Black Country flag from Ben Nevis

THE Mayor of Dudley and an MP are among a group of climbers gearing up to scale Ben Nevis in memory of the Dudley mountaineer, peace campaigner and charity fundraiser Bert Bissell.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin and mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif will join around 20 fundraisers tackling Britain's highest mountain on August 11.

The money raised from the trek will go to the this year's mayor's

charities — the Friends of Alfie Johnson which helps children with disabilities and the Dudley Centre for Inclusive Living which supports local people with disabilities and Diabetes UK.

Mr Austin described Bert Bissell, who was a friend of his family, as an inspiration. Mr Bissell was a probation officer and founded the Young Men's Bible Class at Vicar Street, Dudley. He scaled Ben Nevis at the end of the Second

World War to create a peace cairn near its summit. He died in 1998 and is buried near the mountain.

"I'm delighted that the number of local people taking part in our climb and making a donation is growing every year and it goes to show the enduring legacy of Bert's work in the community," said Mr Austin. "He was a legendary figure and an inspiration to so many of us." To support the trek, visit [bertbissellmemorialwalk.co.uk](http://bertbissellmemorialwalk.co.uk)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### GP services are 'outstanding'

A BRIERLEY Hill surgery has received an outstanding rating from the Care Quality Commission for several services. Inspectors rated AW Surgeries as outstanding for responsiveness, care of older people, well-led for people with vulnerable circumstances.

A rating of good was given for caring, safety and effectiveness with, overall, the practice as rated as good.

AW Surgeries provides GP services to approximately 17,810 patients in Brierley Hill. Dr Ruth Edwards, one of the GPs, said: "We are very proud of this achievement."

### MP organises a fair for Aldi jobs

MP Ian Austin has organised a jobs fair focussing on opportunities at the new Aldi store on the Priory Road site of the King Arthur pub.

Residents have been invited to discuss jobs and questions about the supermarket with Aldi bosses on Saturday at 11am at Priory Primary School, Limes Road. The store will open later this year employing 35 and six deputy managers. Dudley North MP Mr Austin said: "One of the reasons local people supported Aldi's plan for a new supermarket was because it would create over 40 new jobs."

### Fun times for the under 5s at park

A BIG weekend of fun at Himley Hall and Park kicks off tomorrow (Friday).

The park will be transformed with a man-made beach for the under-5s and the Himley land train will be departing from a specially created Himley Station.

The annual fun day, from 10am to 3pm, is this year supported by the Grand Theatre. Admission is £4 for adults, £4 for children aged two to five and £2.50 for children under 2. A family ticket costs £14.

### Celebrating song and dance from Tudor era

A CHURCH in Halesowen is planning a celebration of all things Elizabethan on Saturday.

The Tudor and Shakespeare event takes place on Saturday from 10.15am to 5pm at St John the Baptist Church, Halesowen's parish church and the town's oldest building. People can listen to a free morning concert by counter-tenor Jonathan Spencer, lutenist Mike Ashley and recorder player David Yates. With dancing and sonnets in the afternoon.

### Sink hole road worry

A STOURBRIDGE road was closed for an hour at the weekend over fears it would collapse after a sink hole appeared.

The hole opened on Brook Road by Stourbridge Junction at around 3pm, Sunday, with police closing the road for an hour.

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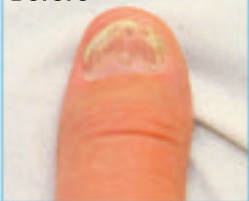
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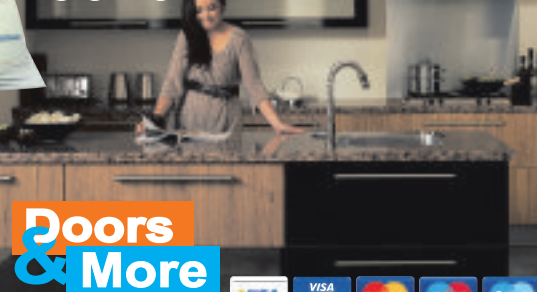
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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE hour approaches. If you've missed the arguments on the EU referendum, here's a quick summary. If we vote Leave, income tax will go up, pensions will be cut, a plague of locusts will descend and we get Michael Gove as prime minister. If we vote Remain, our kettles will stop working, all bananas will be straight and a million Turks will arrive at Dover next weekend. Good luck.

IN a recent item on synaesthesia, the condition which jumbles up the senses, I suggested that Wednesdays were yellow. A reader insists they are blue. Damn this colour blindness.

ONE headline on this week's revelations about Clement Freud was: "Shocked widow says sorry to her husband's victims." In fact, Lady Freud apologised quickly and did not seem in the least shocked. I fear this will run and run.

I'M already missing Ben Elton's comedy series, Upstart Crow (BBC2) starring David Mitchell as the yet-to-be-famous Shakespeare, bouncing half-formed speeches and sonnets off his unappreciative friends and family. Elton kept the in-jokes at an Eng Lit level most of us could understand. But quite why he gave Shakespeare's family Birmingham accents is anyone's guess. Shakespeare came from Warwickshire so it's likely his family spoke with a rural Warwickshire accent. Could it be, forsooth, that Elton, like so many Londoners, simply thinks Brummies are good for a cheap laugh?



HAS there ever been a more deliciously detestable telly-villain than Rupert Everett as Feron, the corrupt Governor of Paris in The Musketeers (BBC1)?

He exudes so much nastiness that when we learn he is in agony from a crumbling spine, we just want to see him wince. What a class act.

PATRIOTISM is a bit like whisky. Too little and you don't feel the effects. Too much and you're ill. At the Last Night of the Proms some years ago, everyone was merrily singing Land of Hope and Glory - except for one red-faced, frothy-mouthed maniac in the front row who appeared to be screaming the words. I was reminded of him this week when the Women's Institute annual meeting in Brighton ended unhappily. In celebration of the Queen's 90th, the audience were happy to sing Happy Birthday and the national anthem. But when it came to belting out Rule Britannia with some members in union-jack costumes, others thought it was all a bit Ukippy and remained seated, for which they were harangued online and ordered to "enter into the British way of being British." I'm with the sitters on this. The British way is - or rather, was - not to make a fuss.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Campaign to save town centre museum

CAMPAIGNERS have urged council chiefs to think again about plans to close Dudley Museum in the town centre and move the collection to Dudley Archives in Tipton Road.

Council proposals revealed last week are being opposed by campaigner Ross Crompton.

He launched a petition to save the building which has been backed by more than 4,000 signatures.

Mr Crompton said: "The council seems to be dead set on the plan to have the museum at the archives, but that doesn't do anything for the existing site. We want to keep some form of museum in the town centre.

"You can't get rid of the building because it's listed, so the concern is what else it can be used for."

"Moving the museum to the archives means it won't benefit the

same people who benefit from it as it is. It doesn't address the loss of something from the town centre."

Mr Crompton said campaigners are looking at forming a group to try to get funding to save the museum and art gallery building in St James's Road as is.

Earlier this year Dudley Council revealed the town centre municipal museum was to be closed down as a

result of drastic financial cuts. Last week tourism boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said the collection would be moved to a new home close to the Black Country Living Museum.

Councillor Ahmed said: "It makes absolute sense to move the exhibitions to the Archives to benefit from the existing tourism at Castle Hill.

"These are really exciting proposals."

# Nurse appeal after being struck off by panel

A DISGRACED nurse fighting to save his career after he was convicted of assaulting his former girlfriend faces an anxious wait to learn the outcome of his case.

Black Country nurse James Kearsey was found guilty by magistrates of putting his hand around his ex's throat at her home in Blackpool in July 2013.

He failed to tell his bosses at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital and in November, following a disciplinary hearing, a Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) panel ordered that he be struck off for misconduct.

The Stourbridge nurse was back in court - very briefly - as his lawyers began a legal bid in the High Court to overturn his striking off.

Mr Kearsey, after being present at first, hastily left the London courtroom, complaining of feeling sick.

Barrister Gemma Hobercraft claimed striking him off had been 'unfair' due to a series of problems with the NMC hearing.

Some of the evidence which had gone before the panel was 'irrelevant', she argued. Other material, contained in an account of his original interview by his employer, should not have been included in evidence, she continued.

Lawyers representing the NMC said the decision of the panel should stand. The court heard the panel had found that Mr Kearsey deliberately withheld the conviction from his bosses and the NMC, the professional nurses' body.

Mr Justice Ouseley said he would give his ruling at a later date.

By Simon Penfold

**THE owner of the biggest industrial estate in the Black Country has unveiled multi-million pound plans for a massive 260,000 sq ft expansion that could create hundreds of jobs.**

London & Cambridge Properties (LCP) plans to extend Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford, with a series of warehouse and industrial units.

The plans for the first phase of the development, comprising 130,000 sq ft, have been submitted to Dudley Council.

LCP is a major UK property and development company with its own headquarters on the Pensnett Estate.

Among its various Black Country sites it also owns the Wulfrun shopping centre in Wolverhampton.

Its Pensnett site is one of the biggest secure business estates in Europe, home to 170 businesses in more than 2.4 million sq ft of commercial space.

The first phase of work will create four blocks of factory and warehousing units on land behind LCP's headquarters on First Avenue.

## Investment

If Dudley's planning committee gives the development the go ahead, work could start as early as the end of this year, with an anticipated completion date of late 2017.

Andrew Preston, industrial portfolio manager at LCP, said the substantial investment would enable businesses looking for industrial or warehouse units of 10,000 sq ft and above to move into premium buildings on an established, secure estate.

"We have decided to press ahead with phase 1 of this speculative development due to void levels being so low on the estate, and enquiries for businesses looking to relocate onto the estate being encouragingly high," he said.

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership has been supporting LCP with the development.

## Awards for Beacon Centre volunteers



Time for thanks - Chief executive of the Beacon Centre Arwyn Jones, front centre, with volunteers at the awards event

THE selfless work of hundreds of volunteers has been recognised during an awards presentation at the Beacon Centre in Sedgley.

Around 250 volunteers support the Black Country sight-loss charity in a variety of roles, from shop assistants to minibuses drivers. At last week's awards ceremony, held during National Volunteer Week, all the centre's helpers received a 'thank you' letter and a small gift.

One of the volunteers of the year was Heena Patel, who has been helping at the charity's Bilston shop for 16 years, working six days a week. Shop manager Sarah Fletcher said: "The shop wouldn't be the same without her. She is worth her weight in gold."

Another volunteer highlighted for her valuable contribution was Chris Guy from Finchfield, who started helping after retiring six years ago. "I wanted to keep active and do something positive," said Chris. "I am also very passionate about raising awareness of sight loss in the wider community."

The charity's chief executive Arwyn Jones said: "It is so important to hold these awards, to say thank you for all the wonderful work our volunteers do for us. We couldn't do it without them."

The Beacon Centre's volunteer programme opportunities available at both its Sedgley and Stourbridge centres, including positions on the talking newspaper. Email rshaw@beaconvision.org or call 01902 880111.

## Dozen brewing for beer festival

A DOZEN breweries from in and around the Black Country have joined forces for the Dudley Beer Festival this summer.

The event in Brierley Hill Civic Hall from July 29 to 31 will also form part of this year's Black Country Festival. It will run from 12 noon each day with 'meet the brewers' sessions on the opening day.

There will be a comedy night on the Friday from 6pm with Wayne Beese, Matt Richards and Nipper Thomas. Saturday is music night with The Empty Can and the final day will feature comedy troupe the Fizzogs.

## Confusion over rail machine office move

AN article in last week's Chronicle about machines taking over from the ticket office at Lye railway station was out of date due to incorrect information being provided. The change happened some time ago.

A spokesperson for rail operator London Midland explained: "A website upgrade by London Midland's supplier caused several old news releases to be re-issued. We apologise for any confusion this may have caused."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Stretch of road is shut for fortnight

A SECTION of a busy Stourbridge road will be closed while gas main works are carried out.

Amos Road, in Pedmore, will be shut from its junction with Wassell Road for about 25 metres. The roadworks will remain in place until July 5.

The closures will be set up to allow Balfour Beatty, working on behalf of National Grid Gas, to replace the gas mains. Cars will be diverted along Oakfield Road, Wassell Road and vice-versa. Access to frontages would be maintained 'where safe to do so'.

Diocese has new education chief

A NEW director of education has been appointed at the Diocese of Worcester.

Margaret James will be tasked with supporting both church and community schools across Worcestershire and Dudley.

She replaces Ann Mundy who retires as director at the end of August.

Margaret has been working with the Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools and as a training manager for the Diocese of Worcester for the past four years, supporting schools with their inspections and training.

Health bosses to outline challenges

DUDLEY Clinical Commissioning Group will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, July 7, at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in Bank Street at 5.30pm.

There will be a series of short presentations including a focus on developments and a look at current and future challenges.

Chairman Dr David Hegarty said: "The AGM is very much a meeting for local communities to get involved in their local health service."

Book by calling (01384) 321677.

Family fun day at Age Concern's day centre

A FAMILY fun day is being held at Age Concern's Mary Stevens Day Care Centre in Stourbridge.

The event at the centre beside the hospice in Hagley Road, Oldswinford, will run from 11am on Saturday.

The event will include a fun dog show and such eccentric sports as welly wanging and faggot flinging competitions.

Black Country Radio's roadshow will also be at the event.

Choir's summer concert

THE Colla Voce Choir will be performing at a Brierley Hill church next month. The annual summer concert on July 9 at St Michael's Church will include works by Mozart, Faure and Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. Tickets for the 7.30pm concert cost £10. Call 07759 136671.

Society is investing in future as profits rise

PROFITS were up by £448,000 at Dudley Building Society over the last financial year.

The pre-tax profit figure for the year to the end of March was £1.335 million from £887,000 for 2014-2015. Total assets have risen to more than £350m as it undertook £57.4m of lending with reserves rising to £19.9m.

Chief executive Jeremy Wood said: "I am pleased that we are announcing another year of growth that has been achieved in a controlled and measured way. This year has seen us update our lending policies, introduce new products, improve service standards and concentrate our efforts on where we believe our greatest strengths lie.

"We have continued to invest in our Society and our branch network, most recently the relocation of our Kingswinford branch to a bigger more prominent home in the Townsend Place precinct.

"It is important that we stay true to our roots and respond to demand - receiving pleasing national press coverage when we scrapped upper age limits for borrowers across our whole mortgage product range is testimony to that."

The 158-year-old society's annual general meeting is at Himley Hall on July 21 at 2pm when special guest Pippa Greenwood, the TV gardening expert, will be give a talk.

Branch users have selected Mary Stevens Hospice as their chosen charity of the year, which will see it receive a donation for every member that votes as part of the AGM.

Customer vote for charity to benefit

SAINSBURY'S customers can vote in the supermarket's Local Charity of the Year scheme.

Each store has shortlisted a maximum of three charities to put forward for the customer vote. Charities in the running for Sainsbury's Amblecote and Merry Hill include Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, White House Cancer Support and The Salvation Army.

Julie Bate, for Sainsbury's Amblecote, said: "I would like to thank all our customers and colleagues who have supported our fundraising activities for the Paul Ackrill Fund and Dudley's Alzheimer's Society over the last twelve months."

Customers can vote in-store or online at [www.sainsburyslocalcharity.co.uk](http://www.sainsburyslocalcharity.co.uk) until Sunday.

Organ recital to be held at church

A FREE organ recital will take place in Wordsley on Sunday, July 3, at 3pm. Paul Carr will be performing at Holy Trinity Parish Church in Wordsley High Street. Further recitals will be held on August 7 and September 4.

Ambitious £500k bid to revamp canal

AN HISTORIC stretch of canal in Halesowen could be given a new lease of life after campaigners launched an ambitious £500,000 restoration bid.

The Halesowen Abbey Trust has drawn up plans to restore the Lapal Canal in Halesowen and re-connect it to existing canal routes in the Black Country.

Lapal Canal fell into disrepair following a failed attempt to restore the route in the 1990s. Trust chairman Mick Freer said the plans could cost up to £500,000 but would 'return it to its former glory'. He explained: "The canal went into disuse when a tunnel network that starts in Halesowen collapsed in 1910. In the 1950s the Halesowen Borough Council restored the canal and used it for boating and fishing."

"What we are trying to do is restore the canal and return it back to its former glory. Roy Burgess, a founding member of Halesowen Abbey Trust, will be leading the restoration. Roy has a keen interest in canals. The restoration will make the site a haven for wildlife."

Mr Freer estimated around a mile stretch of the canal would need to be restored to be linked with the existing canal network that surrounds Halesowen. Clay would need to be re-laid on the canal path to make it watertight.

"The council can't afford to fund the project, so registered charities need to be helping out," added Mr Freer.

He said the trust will need to source funding but

if there were a public appetite for the project they could put the wheels in motion.

The canal is situated above Leasowes Park on an embankment. The trust say once the restoration is complete boating and fishing could return to the canal.

Mr Freer said the canal could be extended in both directions as part of the scheme. The section from Mucklow Hill was cut off when the Lapal tunnel became impassable in 1922.

Pleasure boats ran on the stretch until the 1940s but it was reduced to fishing only in the 1960s and damaged in the 1990s by dredging.

To get involved contact Mr Freer via email [mick.freer@leasoweswalledgarden.co.uk](mailto:mick.freer@leasoweswalledgarden.co.uk)

More than 3,300 in fear of losing home

MORE than 3,300 people living in the Black Country and Staffordshire were put at risk of losing their rented home during the past year, figures reveal.

Analysis of statistics from the Ministry of Justice, by housing charity Shelter, also show that one in every 62 people in the West Midlands faced eviction after falling behind on their rent.

The figures reveal that 992 families were at risk in Sandwell compared with 893 in Wolverhampton, 731 in Dudley, 568 in Walsall, 158 in Cannock, 144 in Stafford and 91 in South Staffordshire.

Shelter says that people have been struggling because of the shortage of affordable homes combined with crippling welfare cuts.

The Government figures record possession claims, which are the first stage in a process that can ultimately end with the loss of a home.

Daniel Blake, an operations manager for Shelter, said: "Every day at Shelter we hear from people who are struggling to keep up with their rent, many in total desperation after the court papers land on their doormat."

More people facing eviction who are coming to the charity for help.

Helpline

More than 9,800 people at risk of losing their home called the Shelter helpline for advice in the past year with 500,000 people visiting the Shelter website's eviction advice pages. Nationally, around 350,000 tenants in England have been put at risk of eviction in the last year.

Shelter has advised those struggling to get help as soon as possible. The charity says families need to ensure keeping a roof over their head is always the number one priority.

Shelter has also advised those facing action to ensure they attend possession hearings so they can put their own cases to the judge.

Mr Blake added: "It's natural to feel overwhelmed but they are not alone and Shelter is here 365 days a year. Anyone struggling to keep up or facing eviction, or is not sure what to do next, should get expert advice as soon as possible. It can be the difference between losing a home and keeping it."

To contact Shelter for advice or support visit [shelter.org.uk/advice](http://shelter.org.uk/advice) or call 0808 8004444, alternatively visit the Birmingham advice centre on the fourth floor at Gateway House, 50-53 High Street in the city centre.

Active Brenda celebrates centenary



Brenda Twiby, centre with, back, Heather, Les and Mick Wright, front left, Margaret and Julie

A STOURBRIDGE woman celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by friends and family.

Brenda Twiby was joined by her two sons, Mike and Les Wright, to mark her landmark birthday. Mick's wife Margaret, Les' partner Julie Townsend and granddaughter Heather Wright joined the celebration at her home in Amblecote.

Mick said: "She's a wonderful woman who has always led an active life. I think her old age can be put down to her not only being active but keeping her brain busy."

Brenda was born in Duncombe Street, Wollaston, on June 13, 1916. Father, Edward Hawkeswood, ran an outfitters in Stourbridge. Her mother, Winnie, was a teacher. She had four siblings who have since died.

Mrs Twiby attended Glynn Primary School. She worked as a secretary at Webb Corbett in Amblecote until 1938. Just before the war she married Norman Knight, a motor mechanic at Wordsley Church, living in Alwen Street, Wordsley, before moving to Lyndhurst Drive in Stourbridge and then Dennis Hall Road, Stourbridge.

Norman died from cancer in 1972. A number of years later Mrs Twiby married Sydney Morgan and was widowed again before marrying Eric Twiby.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows - Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Here's an idea, get rid of all bus lanes

THERE is a brilliant spoof doing the rounds where David Cameron warns that if Britain leaves the EU, the DFS sale could be about to end.

The gag has him claiming that "A vote for Brexit is a vote for bigotry, permanent global recession and full-price sofas", explaining how King John signed the Magna Carta on The Canterbury, "a stylish corner group with floral scatter cushions."

Is it just me, or is the most insightful commentary we have had on the subject so far?

YIPPEE! I'm sure you will all be as delighted me to hear that in just 12 months Wolverhampton Council has nabbed 71,000 motorists for driving in bus lanes, generating up to £4.2 million in fines. In a city with a population of 250,000 - where 35 per cent of households have no car - that's some going.

Apparently, there is a team of trained observers whose job it is to wait for one of the cameras to go off, and then watch the footage of their quarry caught on television. Wouldn't you just love to invite them round for dinner?!

Still, the cash generated through the scheme has nothing whatsoever to do with reducing the council's deficit, and all the money will be spent on 'highway improvement schemes'.

Hmm. I wonder how many of these 'improvements' involve white paint, confusing road signs, and yet more lovely cameras?

The council, of course, does not want anybody to be fined, and would love nothing more than for everybody to refrain from driving in the bus lanes.

And you know what? I agree. And I think I have come up with a very workable way that the council can turn this utopian vision into a reality. Get rid of all bus lanes.

Look, there's nothing wrong with buses, I used one myself only last week. But surely, given Wolverhampton Council's commitment to equality and diversity, it would not wish to treat some road users more equally than others.

BESIDES, how can the driver of any vehicle be expected to understand bus lanes following new research which says the average human now has an attention span shorter than that of a goldfish?

A study commissioned by Microsoft reckons we are all now so addicted to our smart phones that our attention span is now just eight seconds, down from 12 seconds just 16 years ago. By way of comparison, a goldfish can focus for nine seconds.

Meanwhile, new research says we now have an attention span shorter than that of a goldfish. We are so addicted to our smartphones...



The rustic bridge, based on one from 1925



An old picture showing how it all used to be



On the staircase that has been boxed in to protect it



One of the rooms for weddings and conferences



With the plaque to royal gardener John Tradescant



A view of the Shakespeare garden

# Bringing Lightwoods back to former glory

As work continues on Lightwoods House in Smethwick, **HEATHER LARGE** reveals its uncovered treasures

**THEY'VE** been hidden away for years but now historic features at a Sandwell Grade II-listed house will proudly be going back on show as part of a £5.2million restoration project.

William Morris wallpaper, grand ceiling decorations and colourful wall stencils are among the little bits of history uncovered by workers at Lightwoods House in Smethwick.

Since the house was built within the 16-acre Lightwoods Park in 1791, it's had many uses. But after the last occupants, stained glass artists John Hardman & Co Ltd, moved out eight years ago, it fell into a bad state of repair.

In February last year, a long-awaited project to bring the property back into use for the community got under way by Sandwell Council with the help of the Friends of Lightwoods House and Park.

## Conferencing

This is has seen the roof repaired and retiled, windows and doors replaced and rotten wood removed. All of the rooms are being renovated and by next spring will be used for offices, a tea room, exhibition space, conferencing and training events, a children's centre and weddings.

"It's great seeing the house changing. The outside looks great. We haven't seen the front looking so crisp and smart for a long time. On the ground floor there will be a community or meeting room and the tea room. The upper floor is where there will be offices and the large former master bedroom which can be used for conferencing or weddings," said Julia Morris, community engagement officer for Lightwoods House and Park. Discoveries made during the



From left, Julia Morris, council leader Steve Eling, and Richard Marshall, at Lightwoods Park

renovation work will go on show once the project has been completed to ensure they are preserved for future generations.

They include original decorative ceiling cornices found in some of the rooms, which have been saved and will be replicated with help of students from Sandwell College.

William Morris wallpaper was uncovered in the master bedroom when they stripped back the ceiling and a former safe room with a heavy steel door.

Slates used on the roof are reclaimed and have been inscribed with messages from local schoolchildren.

While stencil designs were found on a wall by the main staircase and their story was told by an apprentice for John Hardman & Co Ltd,

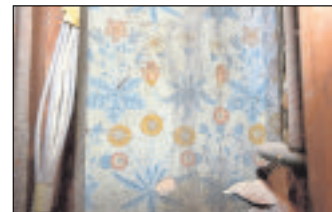
who helped create them. It's believed they have been there for around 15 years.

"We found out that an apprentice held the stencil on the wall while the artist painted. We found this out when the apprentice visited on a house tour we ran. He got told off by the boss so the design was unfinished. We plan to leave it on show and put a plaque on the wall explaining how it came about," said Julia.

It's not just the house which is undergoing a transformation. A play area has already been finished and is being enjoyed by local children. A rustic bridge has been installed, based on the design taken from an old photograph of the bridge that was there in around 1925. A new pond and wildlife area will be created nearby. Work has also begun to bring the 19th



Part of the ornate cornice detail on the ceiling



Uncovered - William Morris wall coverings

century bandstand, which will be licensed for weddings, back to life.

Also due to get a makeover is the Shakespeare garden at the back of the house, which is home to a tribute to royal gardener John Tradescant, and the drinking fountains.

Educational and events programmes are also planned for the park and house which will give people the chance to discover and learn about the park's heritage and wildlife as well volunteering and training to enable volunteers to help care for the site.

In the future, it is hoped the site can secure a Green Flag and a Green Heritage Award.

Construction work is expected to be finished in the autumn and an official opening is due to take place in the spring.

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# Research shows trauma link to football

I CAN understand the frustration of Dawn Astle ('Football legend's daughter hits out at lack of action by FA', The Chronicle, June 9).

The problems of repetitive head injury have been recognised and investigated for many years.

Fairly recently it was given an official name: Cumulative Traumatic Encephalopathy or CTE.

A recent film, 'Concussion', highlighted the problems, including deaths and suicides, among American football players.

## Only have themselves to blame

I MUST confess that whilst I have some sympathy with those who failed to get their registration to vote in the referendum.

I cannot see any reason why this should be extended.

The date of the referendum has been known for some time. Almost as much time has been devoted to the population to get registered by June 7, not on June 7.

Why did they not bother before the last hour or so before trying to register?

This modern computer technology was always going to break down when put under pressure. Past experiences with things like ticket sales have proved that.

So why did they leave it until the last few dying hours when they have had months to register their intention to vote.

It could and should have been registered long before then even if they were not even sure if they were going to vote. They only have themselves to blame.

E J JOHNSON  
Warley

The American football authorities were also very reluctant to accept medical findings or to accept any responsibility for the problems but eventually they had to and it is now costing them millions of dollars in compensation.

It's absolutely not good the FA saying they are awaiting the outcome of 'research' into this issue - the research has already been exhaustively pursued and the results are known.

ALAN ASHMAN  
Sedgley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

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### EMAIL

dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Very indignant and suspicious over register extension

I'M a VIP. No, I'm not important, except possibly to friends and loved ones, no, I'm a Very Indignant Person.

Why? Simple, people who were given three months to register to vote, leaving it until the last 'minute' then finding themselves 'disenfranchised'.

So the important people in Westminster give them an extra couple of days to register themselves. Why?

Couldn't be because those already registered may not want to be a vassal of the greater European state but those who register 'late'

may enable the EU 'remain' to achieve the victory they seem to badly need to justify their positions, could it?

Frankly, the decision stinks.

It is anti-democratic to try to influence the outcome on June 23, if this is the case.

Still they can always apply the same reasoning for a 're-vote' as happened in Ireland after the vote on the Lisbon agreement didn't go the way that was wanted.

Some of us do have memories greater than three seconds.

M GOUGH  
Wombourne

## Ali always 'the greatest'

I WAS a big fan of Muhammad Ali from the early 60s when he beat Sonny Liston to win the title when no-one gave him a chance.

When he fought our Henry Cooper first time he was show-boating and got caught by the left hook and put down. Most who got caught by Henry's left hook stayed down but he got up and won the fight and also beat him when champion.

One of the best nights of my life was when I saw Ali live on stage at the Odeon, Birmingham, talking about this career. He also did three rounds exhibition with his sparring partner Jimmy Ellis. It was packed to the rafters.

Muhammad Ali was a great fighter and entertainer. I will always admire him; you will never see his like again. RIP Muhammad Ali.

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Ned's Atomic Dustbin and The Empty Can fly the flag



Dudley councillors Peter Lowe and Patrick Harley



Support – Citizen Khan, otherwise known as Adil Ray



Lead singer of Judas Priest, Rob Halford shows his true colours

# Stars back the Black Country

**THE organisers behind the Black Country Festival are on the lookout for the best talent the region has to offer, to ensure this year's event is bigger and better than ever.**

Steve Edwards and James Stevens have become known as 'The Black Country Boys' after their success over the last couple of years in bringing together a wide array of attractions for the annual celebration, which will be taking place once again throughout next month.

"The Black Country festival is about bringing the communities together and promoting our amazing region," said Steve.

"Last year we were involved in well over 500 events ranging from barbecues for as little as 20 people, to filling football stadiums with over 20,000 people.

"We brought back iconic events like The Halesowen Carnival which had not happened

for 20 years, and we also put new events on in Bilston, Cradley Heath and Walsall." The Halesowen Carnival will be among the events kicking off this year's festival. It is taking place on July 2 at Highfield Park between 12 noon and 6pm, complete with market, fair, music, dance and much more.

The next day, July 3, will see the return of The Black Country Road Run, which last year saw over 1,100 people take part and raised £23,000.

Events on the following weekend include the Brockmoor and Pensnett Black Country Funday, from 1pm to 5pm on July 10 at the Dell Stadium, with live performances and everything from historical re-enactment groups to alternate wrestling.

Moreover, this year they have succeeded in getting 12 of the biggest Black Country brewers to back the festival, who not only will be uniting on July 29, 30 and 31 for the return of The Dudley Beer Festival, but will be hosting over 150 festival events in pubs throughout

July. Other events include comedy gigs, flashmob dances and sports tournaments, but they are eager to add more to the schedule.

Famous faces are also getting involved. Throughout the past year the organisers have been informing celebrities about the festival, and getting them to show their support by holding up the Black Country flag.

These include Glenn Close, Gemma Arterton and Paddy Considine, who Steve met on the set of film 'She Who Brings Gifts' when they came to shoot in Birmingham.

He explained: "I casually walked over to their trailer and introduced myself and produced The Black Country Flag. Glenn Close was particularly interested in the history of The Black Country and the role it played in the industrial revolution.

After chatting for about half hour and explaining what the festival was trying to do for the community, they were more than happy to have their picture taken with the flag."

Co-organiser James Stevens is the man be-

hind the infamous Black Country Anthem 'I Vow To Thee Black Country' which reached the UK top 40 in 2014.

Proud of their achievements so far, James added: "Last year was an exceptional year for the Black Country and the festival. The Flag was seen flying all over the world and it is the second most popular flag in England, only being out sold by the St Georges Flag."

"The Black Country is all about community, pride and having fun. Black Country people are the salt of the earth, we are full of pride for our historic region and the festival allows us all to come together showcase everything that is great about the Black Country."

"We want all local businesses to get in touch with us and show the world what The Black Country still has to offer."

The festival organisers also want to hear from local performers. To get involved, and find out the events happening near you, contact Steve and James via the official website [black-country-festival.co.uk](http://black-country-festival.co.uk)

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# Living half a century with diabetes



Dr Terence Pang, left, presents the Alan Nabarro medal to Garry Edwards at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley

**A FATHER** of three has received a commemorative medal from Diabetes UK in recognition of 50 years of managing his condition.

Garry Edwards, aged 63, from Stourbridge was awarded the Alan Nabarro medal at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

Mr Edwards, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 1966, has seen dramatic changes in diabetes care in the past five decades.

He said: "I was 14 when I was first diagnosed with diabetes and had to

spend 10 weeks in hospital. It wasn't common for people to have diabetes back then and I felt like my life had come to an end.

"It is fantastic that times have changed so much that there is now more support available to people living with the condition. Diabetes has never stopped me from living my life and enjoying myself."

Dr Terence Pang, clinical service lead for diabetes at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, who presented Mr Edwards with his award, said: "A lot of work and discipline goes into managing diabetes and so I am

extremely pleased to be able present Garry with this award."

Alan Nabarro, who the medal is named after, waged a lifelong battle against discrimination against people with diabetes. In 1968 he was awarded the OBE for his work with young people.

Diabetes UK also awards medals to people who have lived with the condition for 60, 70 and 80 years. Patients are able to apply medals and can get more information by calling the charity on 0345 123 2399.

Around 350,000 adults and children in the UK have Type 1 diabetes.

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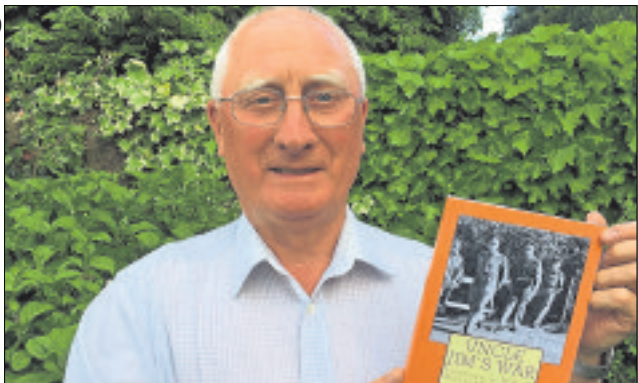
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Graham Wilkins with a copy of 'Uncle Jim's War'



Jim with King George, General Miles Dempsey and Monty



Jim, arrowed, seen with his army comrades, at Chateau Cruelly on July 14, 1944

# Author on the trail of Uncle Jim's wartime adventures and heroics

"IT was so typical of the time, an ordinary hard working person being called up to fight, changing their life forever in the process."

A Walsall author has written the incredible story of his uncle's time on the front line during the Second World War.

Jim Shaw, a 'quiet and hard working man', was wounded three times and missing believed killed for two weeks after going ashore on Gold Beach on D-day.

He eventually returned home safely, but never spoke about his time in the Army with his family.

Jim had been a member of two different regiments during his time, firstly with the South Staffordshire Regiment, before moving on to the East Yorkshire Regiment.

After his death aged 94, nephew Graham Wilkins was given permission to access his service records and has spent 5000 hours over the last five years compiling information to put together 'Uncle Jim's War'.

## MEMORY LANE

By Jordan Harris

Graham said: "Uncle Jim was an ordinary Walsall man. He was quiet, hardworking when in 1940 when he was called up to do his duty for King and country."

"When I look at his early photos, it strikes me as strange that this innocent looking young man could make such a sacrifice for his country."

"Our family did not know any of the detail of the battles he had been engaged in because he would never speak about it except to say how terrible the war was."

"After demob he was content to resume life as an ordinary working man never seeking any promotion greater than lowly worker."

After speaking with Jim's two sons, Graham tracked down his uncle's service records, going on to track his path throughout the war.

He discovered that Jim, who was called

up to the Army aged 24 and achieved the rank of private, had been involved in some of the most famous battles, taking him across North Africa, Sicily, France, Holland, Belgium and more.

Among others, he was involved in the Siege of Tobruk, the First Battle of Alamein, the Battle of Gazala and the Allied Invasion of Sicily.

Graham said: "We all agreed it would be great to find out more about Jim's life in the Army, because we were all so proud."

"Once I had the service records I was able to trace his regiments, their movements and engagements, and with this information I was able to trace the appropriate daily war diaries from the National Archives and track his path through the six years duration of the war."

"The results were amazing. He was involved in some of the most famous battles of the war including three seaborne invasions. On D-Day he was one of the first to land on Gold beach."

"A couple of weeks later he was reported

'missing believed killed' when I asked him about it all he would say is 'we got lost' but it was much more than that."

Jim's time in the forces put him in touch with royalty on more than one occasion.

A picture in the book shows him saluting King George IV, prior to the King knighting General Miles Dempsey on the battlefield.

When the war was over, it didn't end for Jim, who was sent to Norway to help with the surrender of 85,000 German soldiers who it was feared might not surrender and take over Norway in Operation Domsday.

His work here led him to receive a letter of thanks from King Olav V.

Graham's attempts to track down more about his uncle's past brought out a 'reflective' side to him and brought back happy memories of the man he calls 'my favourite uncle'.

He said: "It was emotional at times and always hard work but I am immensely proud of the results. Everyone in the family agrees that it is a lovely tribute."

Uncle Jim's War is available on Amazon.



A young Jim Shaw, 'a quiet and hard working man'

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# Strictly star's surprise birthday visit



Strictly Come Dancing star Anton du Beke is pictured with members of Side by Side theatre group in Stourbridge

IT was strictly a surprise as Stourbridge theatre company Side by Side had a visit from top TV ballroom dancer Anton du Beke.

The star of Strictly Come Dancing popped in to surprise dancer Suzy Schwartz at her 21st birthday party.

Susan Wallin, choreographer, said: "Suzy and her friends

from Side by Side couldn't believe their eyes when the door opened and Anton du Beke walked in the room."

She revealed that Suzy's brother Tom had organised the visit after Side by Side had been practising ballroom dancing for their latest production, Myth In Store, which is being performed at Stourbridge Town Hall until Saturday.

# No longer open all hours

**ROUND-THE-CLOCK** opening at Tesco stores will cease at 20 of its stores, the retail giant has announced.

The company is scrapping 24-hour opening at supermarkets including the store in the Crown Centre at Stourbridge. The opening hours will change to 6am to midnight.

A total of 1,750 employees are affected with a consultation period launched. Night shifts will end for staff at 46 of its stores.

Tesco also has 24-hour stores in the Black Country at Burnt Tree, West Bromwich, Walsall and Willenhall but these are currently not affected.

A spokesman for the firm said the changes were to ensure the 'stores were the best they could be during the busiest times'.

He added that the stores ending round-the-clock opening had low numbers of people visiting overnight.

Tesco UK chief operating officer Tony Hoggett said: "We're making some changes to the way a small number of our stores operate to help us run them more simply and deliver the best possible service to customers"

Tesco in Stourbridge opened three years ago as part of the revamped Crown Centre.

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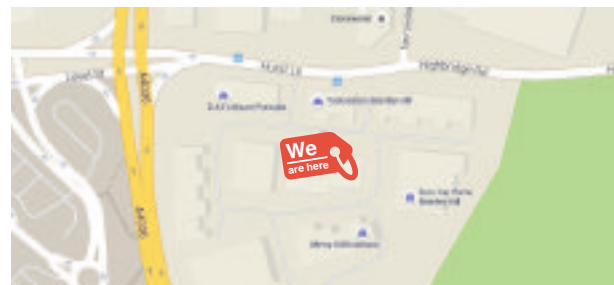
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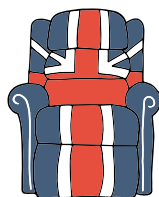
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# Families are needed to host Chernobyl children

THIRTY years on from Europe's worst nuclear disaster in Chernobyl, the threat to the health of those in the danger zone has not gone away.

The immediate area around the nuclear blast was evacuated and will probably not be safe for human habitation for 20,000 years.

There are communities on the fringes in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, where children have eaten food grown in contaminated soil and drank unsafe water.

A charity in the Black Country works offer some of those children respite from the potentially harmful conditions they live through on a daily basis. Children come over each year to enjoy activities and access healthy food and water.

The Friends of Chernobyl's Children group places youngsters across the Black Country but is keen for

more families willing to take them in to come forward after inviting seven children to visit from Belarus.

Adam Harper, aged 33, from Rowley Regis, who acts as a host, said: "There is the exclusion zone where nobody lives but outside of it there are places where the fallout is quite severe. Conditions are not great, many of them are poor and the economy isn't brilliant. There is radiation in the soil so it's in the local produce they eat and the water."

The children, who are provided with new clothing and visits to opticians, stay for around four weeks each summer. Host families are able to claim back expenses.

Mr Harper added: "It has been really rewarding for us. Having my own kids, it has been a good experience for them as well."

Visit the [www.focc.org.uk](http://www.focc.org.uk) website.



One of the groups visiting the region from eastern European areas hit by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster

# Neighbours held cannabis 'gardener'

A VIETNAMESE man was caught growing 252 cannabis plants at a house in Cradley Heath by neighbours who called police, a court heard.

People living in Northgate grew suspicious that Thuy Huang, 44, was operating a drug farm in a rented four-bedroom house. They called police and while waiting held Huang under citizen's arrest.

Police found the plants and growing equipment in the bedrooms and loft. Huang was recruited as the 'gardener', Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Prosecutor Kevin Jones said: "Police attended a property in Northgate, Cradley Heath, on May 15 this year after being alerted by neighbours, who were concerned that there could be a cannabis farm. They found the defendant being held by neighbours outside the property."

Simon Hanns, defending, said: "We've seen cases similar to this before, where people from Vietnam are trying to make money to send back home to their families."

Huang admitted producing cannabis with intent of supplying and was jailed for eight months. He is expected to be deported on release.

# Firefighters now facing extra shifts after cuts

**FIREFIGHTERS in the West Midlands will take on extra shifts to keep the service running smoothly following heavy government cuts, it has been announced.**

West Midlands Fire Authority and the Fire Brigade Union have agreed to allow 'willing' firefighters to volunteer to take on extra paid shifts outside normal working hours.

West Midlands Fire Authority chairman John Edwards said the changes would help 'keep fire engines running and stations open' but described the cuts as 'appalling'.

He estimated that by 2020 West Midlands Fire Service would lose 46 per cent of Government funding, equal to £38 million.

Extended shifts have been announced following a dispute between the union and fire authority over cuts at West Midlands Fire Service.

## Deaths

Firefighters were recently balloted over the additional shifts, which will be paid at a flat time rate with an extra 25 per cent for 'disturbances'.

Mr Edwards said: "Fire deaths rose by 21 per cent nationally last year, coinciding with the longest response times in 20 years and five years of unprecedented cuts to fire services. The cuts are absolutely appalling."

"There is clearly a connection between the speed of response times and the damage caused by fires. The additional shifts agreed upon will help West

By Jamie Brassington

Midlands Fire Service to respond to category one incidents with an attendance time of four minutes and 38 seconds, which given the circumstances is staggering and unique in England. We have the quickest response times in the country.

"The extra shifts will allow us to keep fire engines running and 38 stations in the region open. But they are for firefighters who want to volunteer for them. They won't be forced upon them."

Mr Edwards said the fire service was still in the middle of a crisis and there would be further cuts. "Firefighters who are due to retire won't be replaced but these additional shifts will help combat that," he said.

Andrew Scattergood, chairman of the Fire Brigade Union, said: "Firefighters will be working extra hours if they volunteer and wish to do so, and the union membership has agreed a rate of pay to work extra hours. We will be monitoring it closely to make sure it is working in the best interests of members and the public."

# Award is named to honour council leader

A BUSINESS awards event this summer is to name its prize for start-up companies in honour of Darren Cooper, the leader of Sandwell Council who died suddenly this year.

Ninder Johal, organiser of the Nachural Summer Business Ball and Awards at Wolverhampton Racecourse on July 15, said: "He was such an advocate of start ups and enterprise."

"He led many initiatives during his time at Sandwell Council such as preferential rental rates for start-ups in specially designed incubator units."

"I am sure that he would be proud of the legacy he left for encouraging individuals to set up their businesses. For a region to flourish, there needs to be steady birth of new businesses. This Darren Cooper start-up award emphasizes this. The awards seek to celebrate and highlight the ever increasing importance of the Asian business community."

For further information contact 0121 526 3141 or [ninder.johal@nachural.co.uk](mailto:ninder.johal@nachural.co.uk)



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## Enchanting night of splendid opera

**Cavalleria Rusticana & Pagliacci**  
**Birmingham Hippodrome**  
CAVALLERIA Rusticana enchanted. The delicate overture, gently paced by conductor Carlo Rizzi, soared. The set was a wonder in itself, capturing so well a community waking up to the joy of an Easter Sunday. Balconies, bars and bunting – a scene so beautiful I wanted to paint it, and when the marvellous voices of the Welsh National Opera united in their glorious

Easter Chorus I wanted to step into it. The leads sang with impressive power. Special mention must go to Peter Uty, who stepped in to take the place of Gwyn Hughes Jones, who had been taken ill. He doubled-up as Canio in Pagliacci. He had charisma and energy. Rebecca Alfontwy Jones as Lola sang divinely but most praise must go to Camilla Roberts as Santuzza, whose vigorous voice portrayed all the necessary ardour of a woman wronged.

Pagliacci again took the theme of passion, jealousy and murder. A simple string of lights, stilt-walkers and a few uni-cycle riding characters were all it needed to convey the travelling show. David Kempster who played the crippled Tonio was faultless and deserved the loud cheers of the audience. It was a night of wonder and splendour, so fitting for the WNO's 70th birthday.

Sarah Cowen-Strong

## Les Mis star finally on her own

**Samantha Barks**  
**New Alexandra Theatre**  
ONE of the West End's brightest stars stepped into the spotlight as herself, rather than a costumed character, when she brought her tour to Birmingham following the release of her self-titled album.

Best known for playing Éponine in both stage and movie versions of blockbuster musical Les Misérables, the singer who found fame on TV's I'd Do Anything back in 2008 showed she's got the chops for pop too with a neat cover of Justin Bieber's Love Yourself.

She also performed Stay from her latest musical project Amélie and a cool jazz version of As Long As He Needs Me from Oliver! It's on sad songs that the singer from the Isle of Man excels with her powerful and emotional vocal, so This House Is Empty Now stood out along with a version of Joni Mitchell's Both Sides Now.

The encore was the Les Mis classic, On My Own, delivered with such super-charged sentiment that it earned a standing ovation.

Leon Burakowski

## REVIEWS



Hayley Tamaddon, John Partridge and Sam Bailey, stars of Chicago

## Leading cast show all that jazz in high class musical

**Chicago, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton**  
FOOTBALL. What football? You would never know our national team were playing in a major tournament judging by the queues on both sides of the street to get in at the Grand for this opening night.

There was probably more fancy footwork on show here.

Three big names lead the cast in X Factor winner Sam Bailey as Mama Morton, East-Enders actor John Partridge as Billy Flynn and soap star Hayley Tamaddon as Roxie Hart, a role she played with real aplomb.

The musical numbers were spot-on, the choreography and timing superb and the

orchestra, on stage with the main players, highly accomplished.

Highlights for me were the impossibly high note hit by AD Richardson as Mary Sunshine and the rendition of Mr Cellophane by Roxie's husband Amos, played by Neil Ditt, a real unsung hero of the cast.

For me, though, the vocal talent of Sophie Carmen-Jones as Velma Kelly stole the show. She duetted superbly with Bailey on Class and also linked up well with Tamaddon for Nowadays and Hot Honey Rag.

Chicago runs at the Grand until Saturday.

Mark Shipp

## Notorious jail can't hold Dave in Alcatraz challenge

HE has conquered some of the world's most gruelling endurance challenges – and now legendary fundraiser Blind Dave Heeley has ticked another one off the list.

The charity champion from West Bromwich has completed the Escape from Alcatraz triathlon. It included a swim from the infamous prison island complex.

The 58-year-old could hardly swim when he started his training for his latest challenge. But despite this he finished the triathlon on June 12 keeping supporters up to date on his Twitter account.

Participants had to complete a one-and-a-half-mile swim in the choppy waters from Alcatraz Island to the shores of the St Francis Yacht Club, then a gruelling 18-mile bike ride, and a demanding eight-mile run to finish through the trails of the Golden Gate Recreational Area.

Dave and his compatriot Tony Ellis finished the course in four hours 13 minutes and 11 seconds.

After crossing the finish line, the fundraiser extraordinaire posted a simple message on his @blinddave-heeley Twitter page: "Finished YES."

In the past Dave has crossed the Sahara and even completed seven marathons in seven days across seven continents all to raise money for good causes. But before the triathlon he



Blind Dave and his partner Tony Ellis seen after their swimming marathon

said the Escape from Alcatraz attempt was one of the most daunting challenges he had ever faced.

"It's going to be one of the toughest things we have ever attempted," he said. "Once again the charity is our very own Albion Foundation so I am just hoping the very thought of what this could bring for those kids keeps us going."

Dave has already reached his £2,500 target for the Albion Foundation but anyone who wants to show their support for his achievement can still donate at [www.justgiving.com/blinddaveAlcatraz](http://www.justgiving.com/blinddaveAlcatraz). He trained for the event

with open water training sessions at Sandwell Valley Country Park's Swan Pool.

Earlier this year, Dave released his autobiography, From Light to Dark: The Story of Blind Dave Heeley. It covers his remarkable story, from losing his sight at a young age to taking on challenges and raising a mammoth £3 million for charity.

Dave is in the record books for the ultimate endurance challenge of seven marathons, in seven consecutive days, on seven different continents in 2008.

He will be taking part in the Black Country Run in Halesowen on July 3.

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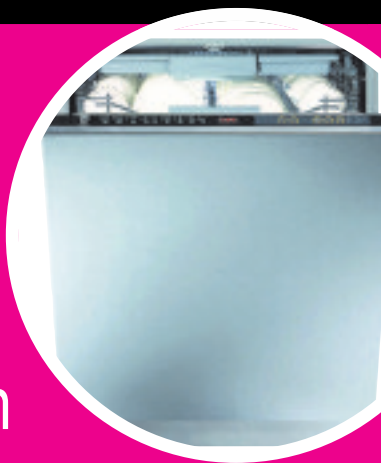
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Some 65,000 visitors saw the Red Arrows flypast at the 2016 Cosford Airshow

## Record-breaking year as airshow hits the heights

**AROUND 65,000** flocked to RAF Cosford's annual air show, seeing flypasts from the Red Arrows, helicopter demonstrations and hangars full of aircraft.

Organisers had to open the gates ahead of schedule with eager visitors ready for admission up to half an hour early. This year's event was a record breaker according to organisers.

Enthusiasts from around the country attended the popular event, which included static aircraft displays, interactive shows and engineering specialists.

Carol Fourie, visitor experience assistant, welcomed visitors through the gates of the first hangar, along with colleague Martin Rogers-Dodson. The pair said there was a real "buzz" around the site with thousands of people arriving within the first hour.

Carol said: "We had people chomping at the bit to get in. We were supposed to open the doors of the hangar at 8.30am and by 8am there were lots waiting to come in. So the crowds have been flowing in all day."

Mr Rogers-Dodson said: "There is always a real buzz, especially before the show itself. We are here to make sure everyone has the best experience they can."

Visitors could look inside four of the base's hangars - three of which are not usually open to the public - as well as around the stalls and exhibitions.

### Signature

Shortly after noon the main event was held with The Red Arrows taking to the skies. The headline act used some of its new moves with their signature red, white and blue smoke.

The Red Arrows were also in a joint flypast with a King Air, to highlight the aircraft's role in flying training. The RAF Chinook Display Team wowed crowds as the helicopter performed a manoeuvre display.

Corporal Adam Edwards, who is based at RAF Cosford, said that while everyone enjoyed watching the professionals, many liked having a taste of the action themselves. In one of the hangars, a number of jets, including a Jaguar GRI, were on display with families queuing to look.

The different planes are used for training in mechanics, engineering and aviation. Cpl Edwards said: "People always come and have a look and they can have a sit down in them too."

"Later in the day we do an engine drop, so we take the engine out and put it on a stand and show the engineering side of things. It does attract a lot of people. I think it is quite a novel experience to sit in a jet."

Visitors from all over the country visited, including Lancashire, Devon and Merseyside, like William Creed, aged 82 and wife Lillie, 80. Mr Creed said: "I have been to the base about eight times and three times to the show. It is all very interesting and everything has very good notices with information."

An added attraction saw a group of rowers set up camp, raising money for a former colleague. Cpl Rob Budgen was left paralysed from the chest down following an accident during a parachute exercise. He is slowly recovering at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and his colleagues want to give him the best life possible following his accident.



Charlotte Purnell, Hayley McGahan, Rachel Halley, Natasha Welding



Peter Gill at the controls of an Auster AOP9



Mucking Fissed Pits 101st Airborne in the vintage village



# Floods lead to village fair being postponed

A POPULAR country fair was been postponed due to flooding. The Kinver Country Fayre was due to take place on Sunday but the water-logged arena site after the River Stour broke its banks means the event has been postponed to a date to be fixed. The event was due to include a main arena entertainment in Stag Meadow, stalls in High Street, live music throughout the day, a dog show, dance displays and a parade.

Organisers explained their decision in a post on Facebook: "To clarify, the whole event is postponed, all of it. Due to the logistics involved, we cannot run the High Street separately. "Essentially, the two main fields

are under water, about 3ft of water in places. Even if it drained today, it wouldn't be ready for Sunday, it would still be sodden. If you were coming with a stall, you will be contacted soon with the new date.

"If you bought tickets, you will be able to use them on the new date, or get a refund."

# Motorist is banned after panic led to dangerous driving

## Funding ends for centre



Fran Cartwright, left, and Sandy Jones at the Springboard activity centre

A POPULAR activity centre which supports thousands of elderly people in the Black Country could be forced to shut after losing out on vital funding.

The Age UK Springboard activity centre based at the Waterfront, Brierley Hill, may close by the end of September after missing out on Big Lottery cash.

**Refused**

Age UK has received funding from Big Lottery for the past six years but this year the application was refused.

Bosses are now trying to find out why and are also looking for other funding options to help secure the centre's future so it can remain open.

Sandy Jones, who works at the centre, said: "We are now looking for other services to help us as we could close by September 30.

"We help more than 17,000 older people every year and we hope that with the help of others we can still continue to provide these services."

The centre has 53 staff and more than 300 volunteers who run various health and wellbeing activities for the elderly.

# Menswear shop backs Astle head injury campaign

A MENSWEAR shop is joining a campaign led by the daughter of West Bromwich Albion legend Jeff Astle, raising awareness of the long-term impact of footballers' head injuries.

Dawn Astle is delighted that Luke 1977, which has outlets at Merry Hill in Brierley Hill and the Bullring shopping centre in Birmingham, will be raising money for The Jeff Astle Foundation.

The foundation was set up after a neuro-surgeon determined that her father died of degenerative disease of the brain found in athletes (particularly boxers) with a history of repetitive brain trauma. This has led to extensive research to identify whether his fatal condition was the result of repeatedly heading heavy footballs during his career on the pitch.

Jeff's widow Laraine, who was at the launch of the shop initiative, has also been involved in efforts to stir football authorities into acting on lessons learned from the former England striker's death in 2002.

During Euro 2016, Luke 1977's shops will be taking donations for the foundation from customers. Whenever England score £100 will be donated by each shop.

# Suspected car thieves arrested after police chase

TWO teenagers suspected of stealing a car in Stourbridge were found by police hiding in undergrowth after a car chase which saw two police cars rammed and a pair of traffic officers treated for bruising and whiplash.

The red Audi A6 car, which had four people inside, was spotted by police in the Chelsmsley Wood area of Birmingham.

Officers were called to the area, on Saturday at 4am, after a report of an ATM cash machine being attacked.

Officers followed the vehicle which rammed two marked police cars, causing considerable damage. The car was then found abandoned nearby. Officers arrested two youths, aged 15 and 16, hiding in undergrowth.

Detective Sergeant Jamie Mason from Force CID said: "Two youths have been arrested on suspicion of burglary and are currently in custody. Inquiries are on-going to find two other people believed to have been in the stolen car. Two traffic officers were treated for bruising and whiplash following the incident."

Anyone with information on the incident should call police on 101.

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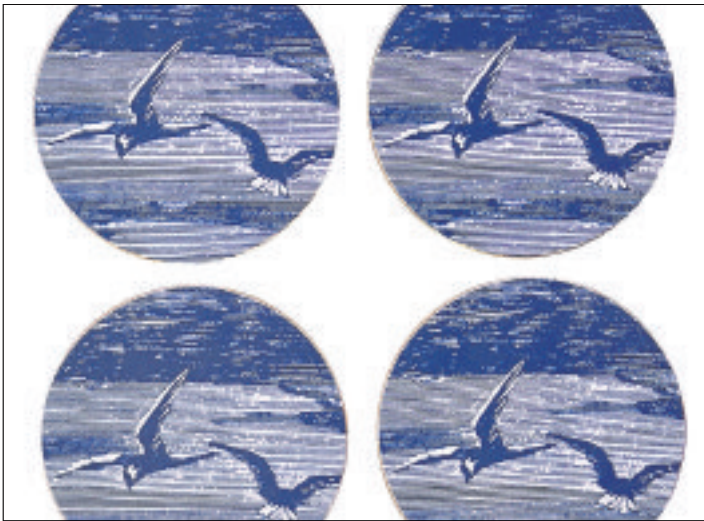
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# Enjoy your summer dining treat with a taste of style

By Gabrielle Fagan

**EATING al fresco is always a summer treat. Gabrielle Fagan dishes up three mouth-watering looks, so you can set the scene in style, whatever the weather.**

It's the time of year when we Brits prepare to demonstrate our bravery, as we brace ourselves – no matter what the weather throws at us – to dine al fresco.

Ready to battle with the barbecue and wrestle unwieldy picnic tables, folding chairs and wobbly parasols?

You betcha – because nothing will deter us from enjoying that heady combination of good food and fresh air. Indeed, a recent survey by Karcher saw 80 per cent of respondents state they'll persevere with plans for dining outdoors, regardless of showers or storms.

Nature, of course, may be beyond our control, but there's no excuse for a shabby table setting, as designers have transformed picnicware – once the poor relation of tableware – with stunning designs that make them suitable for use indoors and outdoors all year round.

So even if the skies let you down, at least make sure your setting is a feast for the eyes.

We've grilled the foodie experts for their top tips.

Pretty floral patterns in soft shades conjure a country garden look, while bright blooms can evoke a sunny Mediterranean style.

"You can't beat an al fresco meal in a beautiful country garden. When my husband and I first started living together, I made a feast in our garden and got a violinist to come and play his favourite classical music. It was a pretty special date night," says Natasha Corrett, 33, creator of the Honestly Healthy foodie website, and author of *Honestly Healthy In A Hurry* (Hodder & Stoughton, £25).

"I keep food as simple as possible, with dishes such as Middle Eastern sweet potato salad, wild rice citrus and roasted radish salad, and beetroot burgers," she explains.

As for the settings: "I like a casual, informal look, with cutlery in kilner jars, so people can help themselves. My favourite tablecloth is white, with 'Healthy' hand-painted in huge green letters, (£375) from Summerill & Bishop."

Marks & Spencer has a super range of melamine tableware to suit a traditional country garden tea party. Choose from the flower-scattered Spring Bloom designs, or the delicately patterned pink and white Rosalie collection, with side plates from £6 each. For a romantic occasion, a Spring Bloom 2 Person Wicker Heart Hamper, including plates, wine glasses, cutlery and table accessories, is a steal at £45. Their vibrant Peru melamine floral range is also a real winner: salad bowl, £8; side plate, £3; round tray, £15.

My favourite collection is Collier Campbell's Flowerdrop melamine range, featuring retro-style blooms on a white and aqua



Garden Shades paints, including Iris Blue and Forget Me Not, £23.49 for 2.5 litres, by Cuprinol enhance an outdoor setting



La Selva tableware available from John Lewis



Flowerdrop Melamine range from Collier Campbell

background: dinner plate £7; side plate, £6, bowl, £6, tumbler, £5. And for a luxury touch, consider a ribbed leaf bowl, with matt nickel finish, £33, In-Spaces.

Blues are peaceful colours, conjuring sunny skies, glittering seas and lakes – which will raise cheer even if the weather isn't co-operating!

"Nature offers what the indoors can't – natural beauty. I love the combination of water and a lush green landscape, so being beside a lake, an ocean, a river or a pond is my perfect setting for a picnic meal," says New Zealand-born chef Peter Gordon, author of *Savour: Salads For All Seasons* (Jacqui Small, £25).

"My most memorable al fresco meal was cooking and eating freshly caught seafood and summer fruits on a boat jetty at beauty spot and wildlife haven Waterfall Bay, in Marlborough Sounds, New Zealand. Everything was perfect, from the weather to the food; I thought I'd died and gone to heaven."

"I favour a rustic look for a table, with a plain white linen tablecloth, candles even during the day, and definitely chairs with backs, even if they're canvas, because comfort is all."

Painting walls, fences and furniture in blue shades will set the scene, and Cuprinol's Garden Shades range includes some beautiful blues, such as Iris and Forget-Me-Not, £23.49 for 2.5L.

Talking Tables makes creating stunning settings easy, and their Coastal collection is well-priced and attractive. A stripe or spot design bone china mug, £8.50; melamine plate, £5.50, and paper lanterns, £10 for pack of three.

House of Fraser's Linea Home range has an appropriate seaside-inspired Regatta collection.

## Cupboard culprits can damage your health

**AS a new report links eating potatoes with a raised risk of high blood pressure, Kate Whiting reveals some other kitchen cupboard culprits**

The humble spud looks innocent enough, but recent research has found they could be contributing to the nation's high blood pressure.

Eating four or more servings of mash, baked or boiled potatoes each week has been linked to an 11 per cent increased risk of high blood pressure in women.

Those figures are according to a new study published in the *British Medical Journal*.

And, perhaps less surprisingly, it's even worse news for chip fans.

Four or more servings of French fries per week has been associated with a 17 per cent greater risk of the condition, which is known to be a leading cause of stroke.

It's thought the high glycaemic index (GI) of potatoes could be playing a part.

This is due to the fact that when you eat high GI foods, energy is released fast.

And that means blood sugar soars more quickly as a result.

The team behind the study, from the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, said high-GI meals had been associated with dysfunction of cells in the body, oxidative stress and inflammation.

These are all potentially important mechanisms in the development of hypertension the medical term for high blood pressure said.

However, potatoes aren't all bad.

Tom Sanders, emeritus professor of nutrition and dietetics at King's College London, said: "Potatoes make an important contribution to the intake of vitamin C and potassium."

"The vitamin C and potassium content is best retained when the potatoes are baked or boiled with skins on."

And it's important to remember this doesn't change the fact that we already know one of the biggest risk factors for high blood pressure is salt consumption – whether that's 'hidden' in processed foods, or added to meals.

Often dubbed a 'silent killer' – because it doesn't usually cause symptoms, but can lead to major complications if untreated, including heart disease – one in three UK adults has high blood pressure.

Concerned that your diet could be raising your chances of developing hypertension?

Here are four other foods you might want to keep an eye on...

### Tinned soup

One of the best comfort foods known to mankind, whole armies of students have survived on them.

They're a store cupboard essential for rainy days when you can't be bothered to cook.

But, they're often packed

with hidden salt, with a whole tin containing as much as 2,225mg of sodium.

That is a third of the Government-recommended maximum daily intake of 6g.

Check labels before you buy, or make your own with a low-salt stock cube.

### Pickled cucumbers

These and their onion brethren are absolutely steeped in salt – as are all preserved veggies.

Salt stops them going bad.

But the veggies are like sponges and the longer they sit in preserving liquids, the more salt they soak up, with 100g of gherkin containing as much as 1,200mg.

Keep them for a treat on the cheese board at Christmas.

### Chinese takeaway

Ever wondered why they're so tasty and addictive? Because the sauces in Chinese takeaways are laden with salt.

Nutritionists estimate an innocent-sounding beef with broccoli dish can have as much as 3,752 mg sodium, while a tablespoon of soya sauce can contain 1,000mg.

### Tomato juice

No Bloody Mary is complete without it, but tomato juice, along with processed tomato pasta sauces and tinned tomatoes, is another salt-filled culprit.

A cup of tomato juice can contain 650mg of sodium. So it might be a good idea to look for low-salt alternatives instead.





# Flying visit by delegates in move to create Geopark

INTERNATIONAL delegates will fly into the Black Country next week on fact-finding mission about the region's bid to establish a UNESCO Global Geopark boosting tourism.

Delegates of UNESCO from China and Finland will be given a tour of key geological sites in the Black Country, including Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve in Dudley, Barr Beacon in Walsall, the geopark exhibition at the Bilston Craft Gallery and Calton Valley in Sandwell.

The four Black Country authorities – Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton – earlier this year submitted an application to become part of the UNESCO Global Geopark network.

A Global Geopark is an area of international significance that protects and promotes the geological and related industrial and cultural

heritage for everyone to enjoy now and in the future. Existing sites include Ironbridge in Shropshire.

The GGN is a non-for-profit organisation, founded in 2004, where members work together and exchange ideas on projects in GGNs.

The delegates from UNESCO will be evaluating the area's internationally important geology.

The Black Country boasts world-class features and the Geopark would link many different heritage sites and features across the area to tell the story of the landscape.

The industrial revolution of the Black Country is at the heart of the bid and proposed Global Geopark. Council leaders said they remain optimistic about securing a Global Geopark and it would be a great boost to the local visitor economy.



The Wrens Nest Nature Reserve in Dudley, which the international delegates will visit over Geopark proposals

# M-way project is to get art motoring

ARTISTS are to transform an unsightly stretch of motorway through the Black Country with homegrown creative artworks.

West Midlands-based MADE is searching for five artists from the Black Country and Birmingham to spruce up sections under the M5 in Sandwell as part of a one day project.

The scheme will give a taste of how the area could look as part of MADE's concept to create an 'edgy canal-side' environment in the future for the proposed Black Country Garden City.

The motorway project will take place on July 16.

The concept would see the zone between junctions one and two, which features a canal running under the motorway with thick concrete pillars standing either side, transformed. MADE's M5 Mile concept has envisaged that the site could feature shops, cafes and bars in shipping containers, performance areas, skate-parks and other attractions, under the motorway.

Chosen artists will be given from 10am to 5pm to create their artwork. Each artist is being given £500.

# Apology for victim who had to watch raid

A LETTER of apology has been sent by police chiefs to a man who watched his business being raided on CCTV after being told officers could not attend until the next day.

Paul Smart watched on a screen at his home in Chaddesley Corbett as the £20,000 theft take place in real time at his Brierley Hill photographic firm in May.

When he called 999 to report the theft he says he was first told to call the non-emergency number 101 and was then told police would not come out until the next morning.

A letter sent to Mr Smart by Chief Inspector Gary Wade of West Mercia Police stated that he wished to 'express regret' for what happened on behalf of the force.

The officer who took the original call has been 'advised of the correct process in handling these calls'.



Businessman Paul Smart

In the letter, Chief Inspector Wade said: "I'd like to take this opportunity to express regret on behalf of Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police for the fact you were dissatisfied with the service you received on this occasion."

## Concerns

"I hope that the manner in which this matter has subsequently been dealt with has gone some way towards restoring your trust and confidence in the service we deliver."

A report on the action taken against the officer who took the call, also written by Chief Inspector Wade, stated: "The subject has been advised by their superior of the correct process in handling these calls."

But Mr Smart remains unhappy with the police response and has asked that the matter be taken to the Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police Independent Appeals Panel. This is due to a line in the report which states when

West Mercia Police told Mr Smart they could not take details of the crime it led to a 'delay in Mr Smart being able to inform the police of a crime in action'.

Mr Smart wrote in reply: "This is clearly not correct, the result of your call handler's advice was the call being downgraded to a Police Non Emergency which resulted in West Midlands Police refusing to attend the scene of a break in and theft in progress."

"In fact the failure to attend allowed the criminals, armed with metal bars, to return to the scene of crime almost an hour after the first call was made to 999."

The raiders made off with computers, keyboards and laptops from Mr Smart's commercial design and photographic studio Doodah Creative.

Along with damage to a window shutter when they forced entry, the overall cost to the firm will be between £20,000 and £25,000.

# Taste testing for menu

RESIDENTS of a Hagley care home have been sent on a voyage of food discovery.

Chandos Lodge Residential Home invited its residents and their families to try a range of different foods and award them marks out of five before deciding what to add to their menu. Staff at the Stourbridge Road home wanted to get the residents involved to promote a healthy diet.



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There's a tulip for every garden setting, from borders to containers

## Tremendous tulips can be used in so many ways

### BEST OF THE BUNCH: Tulips

THERE are tulips for every setting, from delicate species and dwarf varieties to frilly parrots and majestic Darwin, triumph and lily-flowered types, plain, striped, flamed, single and double.

They can be used in many ways – in a mixed border, in a bedding scheme adding uniformity in height and colour, or in rockeries or containers. In mixed borders, you can plant them alongside other plants that will cover the bare ground before the tulips emerge and after they die down. Violas, polyanthus, double daisies and wallflowers are among their most common companions. For dramatic effect plant single varieties of the same colour in pots, avoiding the types with weak stems and heavy flowers with a tendency to flop. Using multi-purpose compost, plant bulbs close together with at least three to four times the depth of the bulb covering them, but leaving enough space for the flowers to open. Good container types include T. 'Queen of Night', with silky purple-black flowers and 'World's Favourite', with glowing orange-red blooms, edged with gold.

### GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT: Chinese cabbage

YOU can sow all types of oriental greens now to harvest in the summer, but Chinese cabbage takes some beating if harvested young, when the leaves are smaller and tender. Chinese cabbages are either tall and cylindrical or barrel-shaped, and the latter are more suited to our UK climate.

They have a mild flavour and crunchy texture and can be used instead of iceberg lettuce. Sow small amounts at two or three-week intervals for a continuous crop and water them regularly to keep the growth strong. Chinese cabbage will bolt if transplanted from a seedbed, so sow them directly into their final resting places and thin them out later. They need spacing of 30-38cm each way to produce heads and should be planted in soil which has had plenty of compost added before planting. You should be able to start harvesting from August. Chinese cabbage isn't very frost-hardy, so cover later sowings with cloches or garden fleece. Good varieties include 'Kasumi' and 'Early Jade Pagoda'.

## No gnomes in gardens of future, says survey

NEARLY 70 per cent of gardens in the Midlands are stuck in the past with almost 64 per cent of the region's homeowners admitting their outdoor space has been influenced by previous decades, according to research conducted by paving manufacturer Bradstone.

A nationwide survey of homeowners with gardens revealed that in the Midlands, 68 per cent of gardens' main features pre-date the 1990s, with 80s wooden slatted fences (42 per cent), 60s manicured lawns (41 per cent) and 50s concrete paths (24 per cent) featuring most prominently as design hangovers from the past.

It seems the region's homeowners have been slow to adopt 21st century garden design, with contemporary features such as raised vegetable beds (13 per cent), mixed native hedging (10 per cent), fire pits (6 per cent), and artificial grass (3 per cent) each present in only one third of gardens.

While almost 41 per cent of respondents in the Midlands said their garden is the most important feature of their home, only 20 per cent are most likely to feel pride when thinking about or looking at their garden – suggesting that as a region, we need to shape up and get our gardening gloves on.

Indeed, 14 per cent of the region's homeowners say they are most likely to feel dread or embarrassment about their garden, and almost 30 per cent feel envious of their neighbours' gardens.

The research, conducted by paving manufacturer, Bradstone, reveals that over 80 per cent of respondents in the region are investing in their home ahead of their outdoor space, leaving more than half frustrated that their garden doesn't look as good as it could.

The top four changes people in the Midlands would most like to make to their garden are adding or replacing fencing, replacing the lawn with new grass, adding or replacing paving, and adding or replacing flowers and plants.

However, our busy lifestyles are getting in the way with over 60 per cent of the region's homeowners avoiding making major changes to their garden because they're worried about the cost and/or work involved.

Regular mowing to keep the lawn in check, weeding, and making it beautiful all year round are the three biggest challenges facing Midland homeowners.

And while as a region we might be behind with the gardening times, weeds (49 per cent), garden gnomes (37 per cent) and pet graves (25 per cent) topped the poll of unacceptable items within a modern garden.

Award winning garden designer and TV presenter, Chris Beardshaw, comments: "Modern gardeners have an unprecedented range of plants to choose from – from exotic edibles to exquisite ornaments, from all corners of the globe – all of which can pretty much be cultivated in our gardens."

"Together with easy access to technical information on how to grow plants, it is completely possible to recreate and encapsulate almost any style of garden from any point in history, and from anywhere in the world. So, gardeners simply have to decide how theatrical they want their outdoor space to be."

But what of the garden of the future? Flowers that bloom all year round (40 per cent), more wildlife (36 per cent) and flowers and plants that need no watering (24 per cent) are the top three things people in the Midlands want most. And with more than 68 per cent of UK male homeowners saying they are responsible for mowing the lawn, it's interesting to learn that almost one in every five men would prefer a robot lawnmower to do the job.

Toby Stuart-Jervis, commercial director for Bradstone, who commissioned the study to mark the company's 60th anniversary, said: "No matter what decade your garden reflects, beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

Whether you have a penchant for 60s inspired crazy paving or favour timber decking terraces popularised in the 1990s, your garden should be a space you enjoy, and an extension of your home.

"There are many quick and easy updates you can make without breaking the bank, and the upcoming May bank holiday weekend is an excellent opportunity to get outdoors and make your garden a space to be proud of."

For more information and for 60 years of garden inspiration, visit [www.bradstone.com/60](http://www.bradstone.com/60)



# Give houseplants a home and reap the rewards

By Hannah Stephenson

**DOTTED** around rooms, houseplants are pretty to look at and add colour and charm – but their credentials don't end there.

They're also known for a host of wellbeing-boosting benefits, and having them in your home could enhance your mood and physical health.

For one thing, they are terrific anti-pollutants, absorbing nasty chemicals such as formaldehyde, a known human carcinogen found in cleaning products, toilet paper, facial tissues and paper towels.

Indoor air pollution can also be emitted from furnishings, upholstery and synthetic building materials as well as pollen, bacteria, and moulds.

And that's not all. Here are eight ways houseplants can help bolster wellbeing...

#### 1. They assist our breathing

Plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, making plants and people great partners. Plants help to increase oxygen levels, and our bodies appreciate that.

#### 2. They clean the air

NASA notes that "plants improve the quality of indoor air". Ivy, geraniums, lavender and many ferns are good at absorbing formaldehyde, aloe vera not only cleans the air, but the gel inside helps relieve burns and cuts, and the spider plant battles benzene, commonly found in glue, paint and detergent, as well as formaldehyde and carbon monoxide.

#### 3. They help deter illness

Using plants indoors decreases the incidence of dry skin, colds, sore throats and dry coughs, studies at the Agricultural University of Norway found. Plants can also help to reduce headaches because they help eliminate stuffy air; homes with many indoor plants can even help reduce high blood pressure.

#### 4. They boost healing

Why do we take plants and flowers to people in hospital? Because they make them feel good. Studies have shown that looking after plants can actually increase your healing time. Texas A&M University tasked patients with taking care of plants, and those who physically interacted with plants experienced a significantly reduced recovery time after medical procedures.

#### 5. They improve your memory

Studies show that working in the presence of plants improves your concentration, productivity and memory. Being "under the influence of plants" can increase memory retention up to 20 per cent, according to research by the University of Michigan.

#### 6. They increase workplace satisfaction

A recent 'Green versus Lean' report, conducted by Exeter and Cardiff universities, revealed that introducing plants into the office lifts workplace satisfaction by up to 40%.

#### 7. They make you feel needed

Having plants to love and nurture gives us something to take care of, which can enrich our lives. If you buy a flowering plant that currently has no buds on it, you can



Adding houseplants to your home can help with a range of health issues, from breathing to lowering blood pressure



Greenery on your desk is said to raise workplace satisfaction



Nurturing plants can improve your own wellbeing

make a goal of giving it care and attention with fertiliser and water so that it can grow flowers.

#### 8. They make you happier

Workers with greenery on their desks rate themselves more cheerful and productive, researchers have found.

#### WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

1. Leave old flowers on some hellebores like H. niger and H. orientalis to allow them to self-seed
2. Lift and divide primulas, polyanthus and forget-me-nots
3. Give acid lovers like azaleas and rho-

dodendrons a feed to stop leaves turning yellow

4. Give conifers and perennials a feed by applying fertilizer around the base of plants
5. Continue to sow mangetout peas
6. Complete planting of maincrop potatoes



# fast the ticket

## Here we go again!

**Mamma Mia**  
hits stage  
See Page 23



**Gold-en**  
See Page 22



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9 JUL • TOWER OF LONDON POPPIES AT LINCOLN CASTLE  
16 JUL • EXHIBITIONISM - THE ROLLING STONES EXHIBITION  
16 JUL • FARNBOROUGH AIR SHOW & IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM  
30 JUL • WEMBLEY STADIUM TOUR & LONDON'S MUSEUM DISTRICT  
30 JUL • KYNREN AT AUCKLAND CASTLE (10am)  
6 AUG • MUHAMMAD ALI EXHIBITION, O2 LONDON • EMMERDALE  
8 AUG • EDINBURGH TATTOO & CUMBRAE CRUISE  
15 AUG • RED BULL AIR RACE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
15 AUG • SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW  
20 AUG • LIVERPOOL FC STADIUM TOUR & FOOTBALL MUSEUM  
20 AUG • EBOR STAKES • EMMERDALE  
28 AUG • NORTH SEA TALL SHIPS REGATTA

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SAT 16 JUL, 6 AUG, 3 SEP, 15 OCT

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4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Carrington House Hotel  
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4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD New Loretta Hotel  
• Includes visit to Snowdonia & the Isle of Anglesey and historic Conwy  
MON 11 JUL, 1, 15 AUG, 5, 19 SEP, 24 OCT

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE & HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



2 DAYS **£119.95**

OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD  
• Includes admission to Buckingham Palace & Houses of Parliament  
SAT 6, 20 AUG, 3, 24 SEP

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5 DAYS FROM **£259.95**

4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Mackays/Garve Hotel  
• Includes Scotrail train to Kyle of Lochalsh, Strathspey Steam Railway and visits to Loch Ness & Inverness  
MON 18 JUL, 8, 22 AUG, 12 SEP, 3 OCT

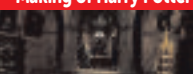
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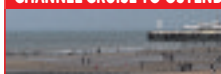
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### Goldie



**Saturday, 9.30pm**  
**Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath**  
Gig of the week sees the Black Country's drum 'n' bass supremo, this year given an MBE for services to young people and music, in Brum for a late night show.  
Visit [hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk](http://hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk)

### John Bramwell



**Thursday (30th), 7.30pm**  
**Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath**  
A solo gig by the Mancunian singer-songwriter from acclaimed trio I Am Kloot, as endorsed by friend and producer Guy Garvey of Elbow. Dave Fidler supports.  
See [hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk](http://hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk)

### Swap!



**Tuesday to Saturday, 2.30pm/7.30pm**  
**Grand Theatre, W'ton**  
Return of the Saint actor Ian Ogilvy has written and directed this comedy set on the Costa Del Crime, featuring David Callister from The Bill.  
Visit [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk)

### Grimes



**Friday, 6pm**  
**O2 Academy, B'ham**  
Rearranged date for maverick Canadian synth pop singer-songwriter Claire Elise Boucher, better known as Grimes, who has hit the big time with her fourth studio album Art Angels.  
See [academymusicgroup.com](http://academymusicgroup.com)

### POP

**D-ran D-ran: Duran Duran Tribute**  
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**Grimes**  
Tonight at 6pm - 10pm,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

**Dexys Bootleg Runners: Dexys Midnight Runners Tribute**  
Tonight at 7pm,  
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,  
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
Call 0844 870 0000

**Big Girls Don't Cry: A Tribute To Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons**  
Tonight at 7.30pm,  
Palace Theatre, Redditch,  
B98 8AE.  
Call 01527 65203

**The Sounds Of Simon: A Tribute To Simon And Garfunkel**  
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,  
The Rose Theatre, Broadwaters,  
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.  
Call 01562 743745

**Never 42: Level 42 Tribute**  
Wed at 7.30pm,  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

**Navi: Michael Jackson Tribute**  
Tonight at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

### ROCK & METAL

**The Machine Rages On**  
Sun at 7pm,  
The Roadhouse Birmingham,  
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.  
Call 0121 246 2273

**The Elvis Years: Elvis Tribute**  
Tonight at 7.30pm,  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

**Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow**  
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,  
Genting Arena, Birmingham,  
B40 1NT.  
Call 0121 780 4141

**Korn Again And Stiff Bizkit**  
Tomorrow at 7pm,  
The Roadhouse Birmingham,  
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.  
Call 0121 246 2273

**John Bramwell**  
Thu at 7.30pm,  
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,  
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
Call 0844 870 0000

**Whitesnake UK: Tribute**  
Tonight at 7pm, £10 - £12  
The Slade Rooms,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.  
Call 0870 320 7000

**Gary Mullen: Queen Tribute**  
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,  
Prince Of Wales Centre,  
Cannock, WS11 1DE.  
Call 01543 578762

**Kirvana: A Tribute To Nirvana**  
Tomorrow at 7pm,  
The Slade Rooms,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.  
Call 01543 578762

**Jeff Lynne's ELO**  
Tonight at 7pm,  
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,  
B1 2AA.  
Call 0121 780 4141

**Cliff & The Shadz: Cliff Richards And The Shadows Tribute**  
Sun at 8.30pm, £10 - £12  
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**Fleetwood Bac: Fleetwood Mac Tribute**  
Tonight at 7pm, £8 - £16  
The Roadhouse Birmingham,  
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.  
Call 0121 246 2273

### JAZZ, SOUL, FUNK, BLUES & MOTOWN

**Jazzlines Free Gigs: Didier**  
Tonight at 5pm,  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**Chantel McGregor**  
Wed at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**Motown Party Night: The Commitments**  
Tomorrow at 7pm,  
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,  
TF2 6EP.  
Call 01952 382382

**Kenny G**  
Tue at 7.30pm,  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**George Benson**  
Mon at 7.30pm,  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

### COUNTRY, FOLK & ACOUSTIC

**Fotheringay**  
Tue at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

### HIP HOP, RAP & RNB

**Brandy**  
Tomorrow at 7pm - 11pm,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

**Saul Williams**  
Tonight at 6pm - 10pm,  
The Institute, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

### CLASSICAL

**Tcha Limberger's Kalotaszeg Trio**  
Thu at 8pm,  
mac, Birmingham,  
B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Sun at 3pm,  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

**Commonwealth Cultural Extravaganza In Honour Of HM The Queen's 90th Birthday**  
Tomorrow at 7pm,  
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**The Sons Of Pitches**  
Sun at 7.30pm - 10pm,  
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra - The Planets: An HD Odyssey**  
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

### CLUBBING

**Propaganda**  
Tonight - tomorrow at 10.30pm - 3.30am,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

**Tronika Pres: Dark Chambers**  
Tomorrow - Sun at 10pm - 3am,  
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,  
Birmingham,  
B14 7JZ.  
Call 0844 870 0000

**Goldie**  
Tomorrow at 9.30pm - 3am,  
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,  
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
Call 0844 870 0000

### COMEDY

**Matt Hale: 100% Chicken Free**  
Thu at 7.30pm,  
mac, Birmingham,  
B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**Sara Pascoe: Animal**

Sun at 7.30pm,  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

**Thursday Night Comedy Carousel**  
Thu at 8pm,  
The Glee Club, Birmingham,  
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

**The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy**  
Tonight at 8.15pm, Tomorrow at 8.15pm,  
The Glee Club, Birmingham,  
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

**EdinBrum Previews: Will Franken & David Trent**  
Thu at 7.30pm,  
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**Rough Works: New Material Night**  
Sun at 7pm,  
The Glee Club, Birmingham,  
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

**Comedy Club**  
Sun at 7pm,  
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,  
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
Call 0844 870 0000

**Comedy In The Met**  
Tomorrow at 8pm,  
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,  
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

### OTHER EVENTS

**The Autism Show**  
Tomorrow at 10am - 4.30pm,  
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
Call 0121 780 4141

**Kings Heath Food Assembly**  
Tue at 7.30pm - 9pm,  
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,  
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
Call 0844 870 0000

**Sports Show**  
Tomorrow - Sun,  
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
Call 0121 780 4141

**Birmingham Royal Ballet: Class On Stage**  
Tomorrow at 11.45am, £10  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB.  
Call 0844 338 5000

**Paint Your Own Miniature**  
Tomorrow at 11am - 4pm,  
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,  
University of Birmingham,  
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.  
Call 0121 414 7333

### THEATRE

**Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Moor's Pavane/The Shakespeare Suite/The Sonnets**  
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £10 - £26  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Gangsta Granny**

Tue at 10am, 1.30pm, Wed at 10am, 1.30pm, Thu at 10am, 1.30pm,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**A Variety Performance In Aid Of BCHC**  
Sun at 7.15pm,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**HLC Dance Fest 2016**  
Tue at 7pm,  
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,  
TF2 6EP.  
Call 01952 382382

**Macbeth**  
Wed at 7.30pm,  
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,  
TF2 6EP.  
Call 01952 382382

**Rehearsal For Murder**  
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,  
Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

**Swap!**  
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
Call 01902 573320

**Chicago**  
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm,  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
Call 01902 573320

**Birmingham Royal Ballet: Shakespeare Triple Bill**  
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Be Festival 2016**  
Tonight at 7pm, Tomorrow at 7pm,  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
B1 2EP.  
Call 0121 236 4455

**Mamma Mia**  
Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, Wed at 2.30pm - 5.30pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, Thu at 7.30pm - 10pm,  
£28 - £60  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Summer Dreaming**  
Tonight at 7.30pm,  
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,  
TF2 6EP.  
Call 01952 382382

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Oh Mamma Mia! It's a blockbuster

**WEST** End and movie hit **Mamma Mia!** is coming to Birmingham as part of its first UK tour.

The tale of family, friendship and romance on a Greek island, with a unbeatable soundtrack of ABBA hits, will bring sunshine and smiles to the city all summer as on Tuesday it starts a run that lasts until September 3.

To date, the blockbuster show has been seen by more than 54 million people in 49 productions in 14 different languages.

Meanwhile, **Mamma Mia!** The Movie is the highest worldwide grossing live-action musical film of all time with one in four UK households owning the DVD, Amazon UK's biggest selling DVD ever.

## Wedding

From West End to global phenomenon, **Mamma Mia!** is one of only five musicals to have run for more than 10 years both on Broadway and in the West End.

Five years ago it became the first Western musical to be staged in Mandarin in the People's Republic of China.

**Mamma Mia!** tells the story of Sophie, a 20-year-old girl who has been brought up by her mother on a Greek Island. With her wedding fast approaching, she trawls through her mother's diaries to find out who her father is, in the hope she can invite him to the wedding to walk her down the aisle.

But Sophie gets more than she bar-



Dancing queens – Emma Clifford, Sara Poyzer and Jacqueline Braun in a scene from the touring production of **Mamma Mia!** Photo: Brinkhoff/Mögenburg

gains for when she discovers there are three potential fathers and then they all arrive on the island that they last visited 20 years before, much to her mother Donna's surprise.

With music & lyrics by Benny Andersson & Björn Ulvæus, **Mamma Mia!** is written by Catherine Johnson,

directed by Phyllida Lloyd and choreographed by Anthony Van Laast.

Lucy May Barker stars as Sophie Sheridan with Sara Poyzer as her mother Donna Sheridan.

For tickets see [www.birminghamhippodrome.com](http://www.birminghamhippodrome.com) or call 0844 338 5000.

# Gangsta Gran rides again

THE play version of David Walliams' hit children's book **Gangsta Granny** returns to Birmingham next week.

Following a successful run in December, the story about a granny and grandson's plot to steal the Crown Jewels is being staged at the New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

The production by the city's own Birmingham Stage Company, acclaimed producers of the **Horrible Histories** plays, was a family favourite hit with audiences.

Walliams, who is one of the judges on the popular Britain's Got Talent TV show, creator of the ground-breaking comedy series **Little Britain** and star of the recent BBC TV Agatha Christie series **Partners in Crime**, has now also become the best-selling author for children in the country and **Gangsta Granny** is his most popular book.

He began his publishing career in 2008 with his debut novel **The Boy in the Dress**. Then, after two other popular stories, in 2011 **Gangsta Granny** was shortlisted for both The Red House Children's Book Award and for the Roald Dahl Funny Prize.

At Christmas 2013 a TV version of **Gangsta Granny** was shown on BBC One with an all-star cast, including David Walliams himself.

**Gangsta Granny** went straight to number one in the children's book charts and his books have been translated into no fewer than 30 languages.

David Walliams said: "It's the most popular of all my books and I am sure this production by the brilliant Birmingham Stage Company will delight not just children but their parents and, of course, grandparents".

## Children's choirs in Romany Wood

MASSED choirs from primary and preparatory schools across Birmingham will be joining forces for a performance of **Romany Wood** at the city's Symphony Hall at 6pm tomorrow (Friday).

The 40-minute musical created especially for children by David Gaukroger and David Carr is being performed to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The young voices will be joined by the King Edward's School and King Edward VI High School for Girls' Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets cost £5 or £8 for the concert which also features Shostakovich's Festive Overture. See the [thsh.co.uk](http://thsh.co.uk) website.

## Rock legend Ritchie in one-off UK gig

FANS of classic rock will be heading to the NEC's Genting Arena on Saturday night for a one-off UK show by Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow.

One of only three European shows, it will see guitarist Blackmore and his band performing anthems by Rainbow and his first major group Deep Purple. The line-up also includes Lords Of Black singer Ronnie Romero, Stratovarius keyboardist Jens Johansson, Bob Nouveau on bass and David Keith drums. Support from Mostly Autumn.

Texas boogie rock legends ZZ Top have a sold out gig at Birmingham's O2 Academy tonight (Thursday).

## Back to 60s folk at Bilston venue

BLACK Country fans of 1960s British folk-rock are in for a treat with three giants of the genre visiting Bilston's Robin 2 venue next week.

On Tuesday it hosts the re-united Fotheringay featuring original members Jerry Donohue, Gerry Conway and Pat Donaldson with singers, Kathryn Roberts and The Voice's Sally Barker, with songs performed by the late Sandy Denny. Then Jacqui McShee brings 60s folk-jazz favourites Pentangle to the Robin on Thursday, June 30, with support from Magna Carta featuring prog rock-folk veteran Chris Simpson. See [therobin.co.uk](http://therobin.co.uk) website.

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## CHOICE



Derek Thompson

## Casualty

(BBC1, 9.25pm)

In the 1000th episode of the medical drama, Elle prepares for a busy night shift, but finds her colleagues still resent her for Charlie's dismissal. She resolves to regain their trust, and takes on a particularly challenging case involving a pregnant woman who is refusing treatment that may be urgently needed to save her baby. Charlie is reunited with Duffy, who returns to Holby as an agency nurse, Iain panics as Rita tells everyone they have got back together, and romance blossoms between Glen and Robyn at the mortality cafe.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.30** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Group A runner-up v Group C runner-up (Kick-off 2.00pm). Gary Lineker introduces coverage of the opening match of the last 16, from the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard in Saint-Etienne. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **4.00** Flog It! (R) **4.30** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Group B winner v third-place qualifier (Kick-off 5.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the second match of the last 16, held at the Parc des Princes in Paris. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**7.10 BBC News.****7.20 Regional Programme.**

**7.30 MOTD: Euro 2016 Live.** Group D winner v third-place qualifier (Kick-off 8.00pm). Gary Lineker introduces coverage of the last-16 match, staged at the Stade Bollaert-Delelis in Lens. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**10.05 The National Lottery Live.** Kate Garraway presents as the all-important winning numbers are revealed. Plus, as voting begins for this year's National Lottery Awards, the show profiles some of the finalists.

**10.15 BBC News.** Weather.

**10.35 Live at the Apollo.** Leading performers on the stand-up circuit share their light-hearted views on modern life in this show recorded before a packed house at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R) National Lottery Update.

**11.20 Film: LA Confidential.** (1997) Thriller set in the 1950s, with Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce and Kevin Spacey.

**1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

**In the event of football not being shown the schedule may run as follows:**

**1.00 Escape To The Continent** (R) **2.00 Flog It!** (R) **3.00 Earth's Natural Wonders** (R) **4.00 Now You See It** (R) **4.30 Flog It!** (R) **5.00 Kung Fu Panda** (PG/2008) **5.50 Can't Touch This** **6.40-7.10 Pointless Celebrities** (R) **7.30 The National Lottery Live** **8.30 The Musketeers** **9.25-10.15 Casualty** **10.35-11.20 MOTD: Euro 2016 Highlights**

## BBC2

**6.20 Film:** The Miracle of the Bells. (1948) Drama, starring Fred MacMurray and Frank Sinatra. **8.15 Film:** Carve Her Name with Pride. (1958) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Virginia McKenna. **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes. (R) **12.30** Talking Tennis. **1.15** Tennis from Eastbourne. The Aegon International. All the action from the final at Devonshire Park Lawn Tennis Club in Eastbourne, which was won by Belinda Bencic last year. **4.00** Glastonbury 2016. **5.15** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Wigan Warriors v Castleford Tigers (Kick-off 5.30pm).

**7.30 Grand Tours of Scotland.**

Paul Murton visits places connected to poet Robert Burns, the man who made Ayrshire famous. His tour takes him from Alloway, following the Burns trail to Mauchline, before heading for the coast and discovering the delights of Buntin's, bathing and betting.

**8.00 Glastonbury 2016.** Jo Whaley and Greg James take over the evening's presenting duties at Worthy Farm in Somerset, taking up residence close to the Pyramid Stage to provide viewers with on-the-spot coverage of tonight's most anticipated performances. The pair also provide highlights from throughout the second day of the festival, including sets by Madness, The 1975 and The Last Shadow Puppets. Gemma Cairney, Martin Dougan and Clara Amfo are also on hand to share some of the best music from the rest of Glastonbury's many venues.

**9.00 Glastonbury 2016.** As excitement builds for this evening's roster of music, Lauren Laverne and Huw Stephens introduce highlights from sets by the likes of Tame Impala, who support this evening's big headline star, and Glasgow synth-pop stars Chvrches. All eyes are bound to be on the Pyramid Stage come 10.15pm, though, as Adele emerges for this evening's headline performance. Once the blue-eyed soul siren's performance concludes, coverage goes back to the BBC studio in the Park area, where Jo Whaley and Mark Radcliffe provide highlights from sets by James Blake and M83.

**1.00** MOTD: Euro 2016 Match Replay. **2.40** This is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Sooty & Monsters. (R) **7.45** Looped. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.30** The Wine Show. **12.40** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** Euro 2016. Group A runner-up v Group C runner-up (Kick-off 2.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the opening match of the last 16, from the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard in Saint-Etienne. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **4.00** Euro 2016. Group B winner v third-place qualifier (Kick-off 5.00pm).

**7.00 Euro 2016.** Group D winner v third-place qualifier (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the last-16 match, staged at the Stade Bollaert-Delelis in Lens. Reigning champions Spain entered the tournament as favourites to top Group D, despite failing to a surprise 1-0 defeat at home to Georgia in their final warm-up match before departing for France, which may have given Czech Republic, Turkey and Croatia enough belief that they could cause something of a surprise. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**10.15** ITV News: Weather.

**10.30 Euro 2016 Highlights.** The opening last-16 matches from France, which were staged at the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard in Saint-Etienne, at the Stade de France in Paris and the Stade Bollaert-Delelis in Lens.

**11.30 Film: Carry On Don't Lose Your Head.** (1966) Comedy spoof.

**1.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

**In the event of football not being shown the schedule may run as follows:**

**11.30 Rebound** (R) **12.30 The Wine Show** **1.30** Off their Rockers (R) **2.00** ITV News And Weather **2.19** ITV Weather **2.20** FILM: The Incredible Hulk (12/2008) **4.30** Tipping Point (R) **5.30** ITV News **5.45** ITV News And Weather **6.00** Catchphrase (R) **7.00** The Chase (R) **8.00** Midsomer Murders (R) **10.00** ITV News And Weather **10.14** ITV Weather **10.15** Euro 2016 Highlights **11.15** FILM: Carry On Don't Lose Your Head (PG/1966) **1.00-3.00** Jackpot247

## CHANNEL 4

**6.05** Salvage SOS. **6.30** Motor Sport: Mobil 1 The Grid. **7.00** Triathlon. **7.30** Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Car SOS. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newcastle and Newmarket. **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.35** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R)

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Gogglesprogs.** In Shropshire, Toby, Sam and James share a love of video games, while in Neath Ashton adores documentaries though his sister Darcie and cousin Cari both prefer the soaps. In this episode, the young TV viewers give their unique takes on Take Me Out, Countdown and Star Wars. (R)

**8.00 Film: Life of Pi.** (2012) A writer interviews a man about the extraordinary events of his life. He describes his childhood in India, living in the zoo run by his father, and how the family and their animals were forced to relocate to Canada when he was a teenager. However, during the sea voyage, the ship sank and he was left adrift in a small boat with a ferocious tiger. Ang Lee's adventure based on Yann Martel's novel, starring Suraj Sharma and Irfan Khan.

**10.30 Film: R.I.P.D.** (2013) Premiere. A cop killed in the line of duty is recruited by a ghostly police force assigned to battle evil spirits.

Fantasy adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds and Jeff Bridges.

**12.30 Film: Blue Is the Warmest Colour.** (2013) A teenage girl learns to develop her own outlook on life through her long relationship with an older woman. Romantic drama, with Lea Seydoux and Adele Exarchopoulos. **3.30** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. John Paul realises he has missed Father's Day, while Myra falls down the stairs at the school. Nancy and Darren are determined to stop Maxine dating Adam. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. Kirstie Allsopp helps Iman and Heather Ahmed to decorate their new home with a vintage 1920s-inspired theme and highlights the perks of second-hand furniture. (R) **5.55** The King of Queens. Doug's bowling team has to win the next match. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.40** Film: Star Trek: Insurrection. (1998) **1.40** Film: Columbus: The Conspirators. (1978) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.40** Film: Columbo: Playback. (1975) Crime drama, with Peter Falk. **5.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

**6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred's first case sees them in a Brighton health spa as they search for assets to seize in pursuit of a £20,000 debt. Following a stand-off, they devise a way to work with the owner and her professional advisers to come up with a solution. Later, Graham reveals his softer side when he revisits a woman who defaulted on a debt payment plan. (R)

**7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles.** Callen and Sam investigate when an ex-marine is killed by an explosive device hidden in his mobile phone and discover the other members of his bomb disposal unit are also in danger. (R)

**8.00 NCIS.** Gibbs is taken back to discover Tony's father is linked to the team's latest investigation, a politically sensitive case involving an assassination attempt on Prince Sayif, a visiting Saudi dignitary with a taste for the high life. (R)

**9.00 NCIS.** A prostitute and what seems to be one of her clients are gunned down in a drive-by shooting, and when it emerges that the would-be John was actually a Navy officer, Gibbs and DiNozzo realise the killings are connected. Lex Tarlinas, an incomplete operation to bring justice to those responsible for an attack on a US airport in 1979, which left 100 people dead. The main suspect is a former Colombian drugs kingpin known as Tomas Orlando, and the murdered sex worker was about to hand over crucial DNA evidence that could have connected him to the crime, but now that she is dead, Gibbs and the others must find another way to finally bring Orlando in.

**9.55 5 News Weekend.**

**10.00 Big Brother.** Catching up with the Big Brother contestants as they react to Friday night's live eviction.

**11.05 Jason Marnold Live.** (R) **12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** The Secret Life of Kittens. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Squeeze & Madness at Glastonbury 2016 **8.00** Baaba Maal & Mbongwana Star at Glastonbury 2016 **9.00** Egypt's Lost Cities **10.30** New Order or Philip Glass's Heroes Symphony at Glastonbury 2016 **12.30** Synth Britannia: The BBC **1.30** Top of the Pops: 1982-2.00 When Albums Ruled the World **3.30** Close

**ITV2**

**12.25** Ninja Warrior UK **1.30** Film: The Perfect Man (2005) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35** Film: The Perfect Man (2005) **3.35** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.35** FYI Daily **4.40** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **5.15** Film: Along Came Polly (2004) **6.15** FYI Daily **6.20** Film: Along Came Polly (2004) **7.05** Film: Rumour Has It (2005) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** Film: Rumour Has It (2005) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hotlist **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.20** The Cleveland Show **2.40** Johnny Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**

**11.25** FYI Daily **11.30** Film: Les Misérables (1978) **12.45** Foye's War **2.50** Midsomer Murders **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Inspector Morse **12.10** The Jury **1.10** City Lights **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV4**

**11.15** The Saint **12.20** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **1.50** Pawn Stars **2.45** FYI Daily **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **4.30** Film: Superman (1978) **5.30** FYI Daily **5.35** Film: Superman (1978) **7.30** World Series of Darts: Shanghai **11.30** Film: Sleepers (1996) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35** Film: Sleepers (1996) **2.25** Movies Now **2.35** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**11.30** Baby Daddy **12.30** How I Met Your Mother **1.30** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Immortals (2011) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.20** Rude Tube: Love Bytes **2.20** The Inbetweeners **3.15** Gogglebox **4.05** New Girl **4.30** Revenge

**Film4**

**11.00** The Last Mimzy (2007) **1.00** Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) **2.40** The Phantom (1996) **4.40** Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **6.45** Robot (2004) **9.00** Bullet to the Head (2012) **10.45** Predator 2 (1990) **12.55** 4.3.2.1 (2010) **3.15** Close

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Disney's new Broadway musical Aladdin will sweep you into a world filled with beauty, comedy and breathtaking spectacle.

From the producer of The Lion King, Aladdin arrives at the Prince Edward Theatre in London at the end of May and will feature all the timeless songs from the Disney film, including A Whole New World, Friend Like Me and Arabian Nights.

One of the most spectacular productions to come to London, with over 180 people involved, enjoy over 84 special effects including pyrotechnics, transformations and of course a flying carpet!

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**DAYS: 2** **DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES**





CHOICE



**Messages Home: Lost Films of the British Army (Channel 4, 8pm)**  
Documentary about filmed messages made by British soldiers serving in Burma during the Second World War, which were recently recovered in a Manchester Town Hall basement. The footage features messages from the soldiers to their families at home, including a father speaking to a daughter he has not met, a decorated veteran troubled by the thought of killing, and a gunner longing to return to the woman he loved.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.15** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Group A winner v third-place qualifier (Kick-off 2.00pm). Gary Lineker introduces coverage of the last-16 match, staged at the Stade de Lyon. Having been drawn alongside Albania, Romania and Switzerland in Group A, tournament hosts France were the hot favourites to be involved in this match, especially as they are considered by many to be favourites to win the tournament. The third-place qualifier will be selected from either groups C, D or E, which means there is a chance that either Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland could be involved this afternoon. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Group C winner v third-place qualifier (Kick-off 5.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the fifth match of the last-16 stage, held at the Stade Pierre Mauroy in Lille. Half of the quarter-final line-up has been decided and the favourites to be involved in this fixture are Germany, who started the tournament as the most fancied side in Group C. Their record in the European Championships is outstanding, but they slipped up in the semi-finals four years ago against an Italian team inspired by maverick striker Mario Balotelli. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **7.00** BBC News. **7.20** Regional Programme. **7.30** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Group F winner v Group E runner-up (Kick-off 8.00pm). Subsequent programmes subject to change. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Room 101 - Extra Storage. **11.15** Film: High Fidelity. (2000) **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News. **In the event of football not being shown the schedule may run as follows:** **1.30** Homes Under The Hammer (R) **2.30** Flog It! (R) **3.25** Escape To The Continent (R) **3.55** Songs Of Praise **4.30** TBA **5.05** Pointless Celebrities (R) **6.00** BBC News **6.20** Regional News; Weather **6.30** Countryfile **7.30** TBA **8.30** The Musketeers **9.25** Casualty **10.15** BBC News **10.35** Regional News; Weather **10.45** MOTD: Euro 2016 Highlights **11.30** FILM: High Fidelity (15/2000) **1.15** Weather For The Week Ahead **1.20-6.00** BBC News

BBC2

**6.35** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.35** Countryfile. (R) **8.35** The Beechgrove Garden. (R) **9.05** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.35** Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes. (R) **11.05** A Cook Abroad: John Torode's Argentina. (R) **12.05** Tennis: Wimbledon 2015 Review. **1.00** Live Athletics: British Championships. The third and final day from Birmingham. **5.00** Flog It! (R) **5.30** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **6.30** **Glastonbury 2016.** Mark Radcliffe, Lauren Laverne and Jo Whaley present more highlights from the festival, including Jeff Lynne making his Glastonbury debut on the Pyramid Stage. The programme also features performances by Gregory Porter and Laura Mvula and an acoustic set by Cyndi Lauper, while Gemma Cairney and Martin Dougan report on some of the more obscure areas of the festival. **8.00** **Top Gear.** Chris Evans and Matt Le Blanc take a trip to Dingle to check out Rolls Royce's new model the Dawn, and put it to the test to see if it can outperform one of the company's most successful cars, the 1976 Corniche. Rory Reid retraces a historic journey against the clock when he delivers a Jaguar F-type SVR to the Geneva Motor Show, while Chris Harris takes the new BMW M2 for a test drive. Jennifer Saunders and The Great British Bake Off's Paul Hollywood are this week's Stars in a Rallycross Car. **9.00** **Glastonbury 2016.** Jo Whaley and Huw Stephens introduce full live coverage Coldplay's performance at the Pyramid Stage, with the group headlining the festival for a record-breaking fourth time. After the set, Mark Radcliffe joins Jo to present some highlights from the third day, including LCD Soundsystem, Guy Garvey and Grimes. Plus, Gemma Cairney delivers a report from the late night world of the festival. **12.00** MOTD: Euro 2016 Match Replay. A full re-run of a match from the last 16 of the tournament in France. **1.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile. The team explores the East Midlands, with Matt Baker travelling down the river Trent in a kayak and Helen Skelton becoming an apprentice at a traditional windmill in Rutland. (R) **2.40** Holby City. Jac is angered when someone steals the patent for the Digby Stent. (R) **3.35** Horizon: How to Find Love Online. (R) **4.35** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Neighbours. (R) **7.45** Looped. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Bargain Round Britain with John Sergeant. (R) **11.30** Weekend Escapes with Warwick Davis. (R) **11.55** Catchphrase. (R) **12.40** ITV News. **1.00** Euro 2016. Group A winner v third-place qualifier (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.00** Euro 2016. Group C winner v third-place qualifier (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.00** **Euro 2016.** Group F winner v Group E runner-up (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from the Stadium Municipal in Toulouse, where the sixth last-16 fixture takes place. Four years ago two matches in the knockout stage went to penalties, both after finishing goalless, with Italy beating England in the quarter-finals, and Spain eliminating Portugal in the semi-finals before going on to win the tournament and continue their dominance of international football. The Portuguese are expected to be in action again this evening, given that they were the clear favourites to win Group F, while the Italians were drawn in Group E, arguably the toughest of the six, alongside Sweden, Belgium and the Republic of Ireland. **10.15** ITV News: Weather. **10.30** **Euro 2016 Highlights.** Action from the latest last-16 matches from France, which were staged at the Stade de Lyon, the Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Lille and the Stadium Municipal in Toulouse. **11.30** Peston on Sunday. (R) **12.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. Action from Thruxton. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **In the event of football not being shown the schedule may run as follows:** **1.00** Planet's Got Talent (R) **1.30** Judge Rinder (R) **2.30** Midsomer Murders (R) **4.30** The Chase (R) **5.30** ITV News **5.45** **ITV News And Weather 6.00** You've Been Framed! (R) **7.00** Big Star's Little Star (R) **8.00** Endeavour (R) **10.00** **ITV News And Weather 10.14** **ITV Weather 10.15** **Euro 2016 Highlights 11.15** **Peston On Sunday (R) 12.15-3.00** **Jackpot247**

CHANNEL 4


**6.20** Salvage SOS. **6.45** Salvage SOS. **7.05** 24 Hours of Le Mans: World Endurance Championship. **7.30** 24 Hours of Le Mans: World Endurance Championship. **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** Film: Runaway Bride. (1999) Romantic comedy, with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. **3.50** Film: One Hundred and One Dalmatians. (1961) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Betty Lou Gerson. **5.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** **Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service.** The actress concludes her journey with a trip to the Queen's royal residences in Wales and exploring the regal links, including ceremonial investitures, Pembrokeshire corgis and the Royal harpist. She pays a visit to Caernarfon Castle, where Prince Charles was invested as Prince of Wales in 1969, and the Royal Mint, as well as Aberfan in the valleys of south-west Wales, which was the site of a disastrous coal mining accident in 1966. On her travels, she meets champion dog breeders and is serenaded by two male voice choirs. Last in the series. **8.00** **Messages Home: Lost Films of the British Army.** Documentary about recently recovered films made by British soldiers serving in Burma during the Second World War in which they send messages home to their families. **9.00** **Film: The Railway Man.** (2013) Premiere. A traumatised former prisoner of war gets married, but continues to suffer nightmares about his experiences. He is unable to talk to his wife about his time in captivity, so she tracks down a fellow convict to learn the truth – and discovers the cruel Japanese officer he is fixated on is still alive. Fact-based drama starring Colin Firth, Nicole Kidman and Stellan Skarsgard. **11.20** **Film: The Sixth Sense.** (1999) A child psychologist takes on the case of a boy terrified by ghostly apparitions. M Night Shyamalan's supernatural thriller, with Bruce Willis and Toni Collette. **1.15** The Secret World of Tinker. (R) **2.10** Hitler's Hidden Drug Habit. (R) **3.05** French Collection. (R) **4.00** Posh Pawnbrokers. (R)

CHANNEL 5

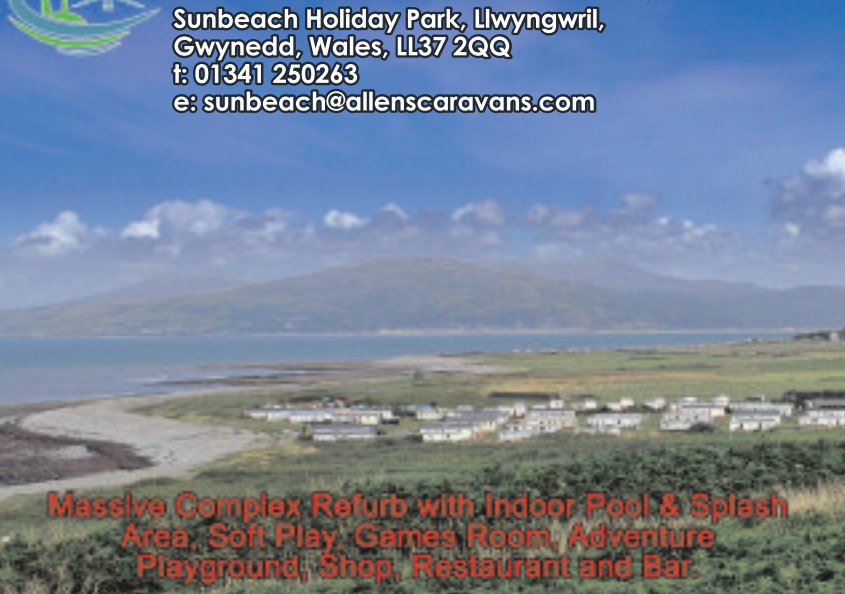
**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Now That's Funny! (R) **11.35** **Film: Under the Tuscan Sun.** (2003) Romantic comedy drama, with Diane Lane and Raoul Bova. **1.45** **Film: The Horse Whisperer.** (1998) Drama, starring Robert Redford. **5.00** Film: The Deep End of the Ocean. (1999) Drama, starring Michelle Pfeiffer. **6.55** **5 News Weekend.** **7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v Sri Lanka. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the third one-day international in the five-match series, which took place at The County Ground in Bristol. **8.00** **Now That's Funny!** A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring a girl struggling with a maths question and some spectacular escape attempts. Plus, the latest stars of the week. **9.00** **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **10.00** **Sacrifice.** A former surgeon moves to her husband's ancestral home in the Shetland Islands, where she uncovers a corpse in a peat bog. Mystery drama, with Radha Mitchell. **11.50** **It's Not Me, It's You.** Eamonn Holmes hosts this relationship-based panel show, in which team captains Kelly Brook and Vicky Pattison lead four celebrity guests through a series of games. (R) **12.35** Lip Sync Battle: Stephen Merchant v Malin Akerman. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. The GPs see patients with sports-related injuries. (R) **4.00** **Now That's Funny!** Internet-sourced videos with an amusing family friendly hook. (R) **4.50** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL


**BBC Four** **7.00** The Last Days of Anne Boleyn **8.00** Gregory Porter & Ellie Goulding at Glastonbury 2016 **9.00** PJ Harvey at Glastonbury 2016 **11.30** Big Hits: TOTP 1984 to 1975 **1.00** Wonders of the Universe **2.00** Rise of the Continents **3.00** The Treasure Hunters **4.00** Close **ITV2** **1.05** Take Me Out **2.05** Love Island: The Weekly Hotlist **2.35** Catchphrase **3.20** **Film: Beethoven's 2nd** (1993) **4.20** **FYI Daily 4.25** **Film: Beethoven's 2nd** (1993) **5.05** **Film: Charlotte's Web** (2006) **6.05** **FYI Daily 6.10** **Film: Charlotte's Web** (2006) **7.00** **Film: Evan Almighty** (2007) **8.00** **FYI Daily 8.05** **Film: Evan Almighty** (2007) **9.00** **Love Island 10.00** **Family Guy 11.55** **American Dad! 12.00** **The Cleveland Show 1.30** **Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 1.55** **Planet's Funniest Animals 2.15** **Teleshopping 5.45** **ITV2** **Nightscreen** **ITV3** **11.20** **Goodbye Mr Chips 1.25** **Film: Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case** (1977) **3.00** **Agatha Christie's Marple 5.05** **The Making of a Lady 6.55** **Midsomer Murders 8.00** **The Bletchley Circle 10.00** **Lewis 12.05** **Film: Wimbledon** (2004) **1.15** **FYI Daily 1.20** **Film: Wimbledon** (2004) **1.55** **A Touch of Frost 3.40** **May the Best House Win 5.25** **Judge Judy 5.45** **ITV3** **Nightscreen** **ITV4** **12.05** **Storage Wars Unlocked 1.00** **Storage Wars 2.00** **Pawn Stars 3.25** **Film: Superman** (1978) **4.25** **FYI Daily 4.30** **Film: Superman** (1978) **6.20** **The Wine Show 7.30** **World Series of Darts: Shanghai 11.30** **The Darts Mavericks 12.30** **Film: The Boat That Rocked** (2009) **1.35** **FYI Daily 1.40** **Film: The Boat That Rocked** (2009) **3.00** **Teleshopping** **E4** **12.30** **Made in Chelsea 1.35** **Couples Come Dine With Me 3.35** **The Big Bang Theory 9.00** **Film: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1** (2011) **11.20** **Gogglebox 12.25** **The Inbetweeners 1.30** **Tattoo Fixers 2.30** **Gogglebox 3.25** **Hollyoaks** **Film4** **11.00** **Destry Rides Again** (1939) **1.00** **Chalet Girl** (2011) **2.50** **Patton** (1970) **6.10** **Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen** (2009) **9.00** **Die Hard 2** (1990) **11.25** **Enemy at the Gates** (2001) **2.00** **MacGruber** (2010) **3.50** **Close**



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## FILM CHOICES

### MONDAY

#### Dark Desire, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A woman trapped in an unhappy marriage suffers further misery when she learns that her student son has died in a tragic accident. She turns to his sympathetic college roommate for solace and they begin an affair - but she gradually realises her lover may have murdered her child. Thriller, starring Kelly Lynch and Nic Robuck. (2012)

### WEDNESDAY

#### The Haunting in Connecticut, Channel 4, 1.30am

A family relocates to an old Victorian house to be closer to a clinic where their son is receiving treatment for cancer. When the teenager begins to suffer strange visions and nightmares, he learns the property was once inhabited by a demonic messenger, who returns to unleash terror on the new residents. Horror, starring Kyle Gallner. (2009)

### THURSDAY

#### Deadly Revenge, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman starts a relationship with a seemingly perfect man who has an intense relationship with his mother. She discovers his only previous girlfriend died mysteriously, and becomes consumed with paranoia as she investigates what became of her. Thriller, starring Alicia Ziegler. (2013)



Fallen, Friday, BBC1 11.55pm

### FRIDAY

#### Baby Sellers, Channel 5, 3.20pm

The owner of an adoption agency maintains a respectable reputation, while secretly the children she provides to desperate clients are obtained by illegal means. A customs agent develops suspicions about the criminal network behind the trade in kidnapped infants and tries to expose the scandal. Crime drama, starring Jennifer Finnigan and Kirstie Alley. (2013)

#### Fallen, BBC1, 11.55pm

A detective investigates a series of grisly murders that mimic the handiwork of an executed serial killer. The case takes a stranger twist when he realises a bloodthirsty disembodied demon is responsible - and that it can leap from one unsuspecting host to another. Supernatural thriller, starring Denzel Washington. (1998)

# Who will be this year's ace in the pack?

There's barely been time for tennis fans to recover from Novak Djokovic beating Andy Murray in the French Open final, and now here we are again - as the world's best players return with their all-whites freshly bleached to do battle at the All England Club.

The third Grand Slam of the year on SW19's hallowed grass courts is always one of the highlights of the sporting calendar, and it's an early start for Sue Barker today, as she introduces coverage of the opening day's play.

The action on Centre Court traditionally begins with the men's singles champion beginning the defence of his title.

That man is Djokovic, who goes into the tournament as the heavy favourite after dominating the men's game for the last couple of seasons.

The Serb won his first Wimbledon title in 2011, and famously celebrated by eating a handful of Centre Court grass.

He made the final again in 2013; and in 2014 and 2015 was munching

happily on the turf again as he defeated Roger Federer both times to claim back-to-back titles - the first man to do so since Federer's unequalled five-year reign from 2003 to 2007.

Djokovic's four-set defeat of Murray in Paris a fortnight ago saw him become the first man since the great Rod Laver in 1969 to hold all four Grand Slam titles at the same time, and few would bet on him adding to his three Wimbledon successes a week on Sunday.

His main danger is likely to come from world No.2 and 2013 champ Murray, who may trail Djokovic in the head-to-head, but continues to win enough matches against the Serb and push him in the ones he loses to keep his rival and friend honest.

Murray can expect more support than ever this year after capturing the Davis Cup for Great Britain in 2015, and if he can keep heart-stopping five-set epics in the early rounds to a minimum, he could be solid pick to reach the final at the All England Club - where he's beaten Djokovic before.

As far as the women's tournament

goes, Serena Williams remains very much the queen of the game, but she hasn't won a Grand Slam title since she beat Garbine Muguruzza on Centre Court 12 months ago.

Her quest for the calendar-year Grand Slam and a 22nd title overall, which would tie Steffi Graf's Open Era record, was unexpectedly derailed by Italian veteran Roberta Vinci in New York last year.

Returning in January at the Australian Open, Williams suffered another surprise defeat to left-hander Angelique Kerber.

So no calendar Slam this year, but the quest for 22 was very much still on, and despite various illness and injury problems Williams stormed to the French Open final for the loss of just one set - only to be defeated by Garbine Muguruzza.

On the home front, Johanna Konta has enjoyed a 2016 campaign to remember and the Briton will be hopeful that the partisan crowd can see her reproduce the form which saw her reach the Australian Open semi-final in January.



Sue Barker presents Wimbledon 2016, Monday, BBC2, 11.30am

# BEST OF THE REST

### MONDAY

#### Superfoods: The Real Story Channel 4, 8.30pm

Kate Quilton returns with the programme that investigates the purported health benefits of superfoods. She visits the Italian city of Naples to explore the potential cancer-busting properties of the humble tomato, before travelling to Japan to find out if the secret of youth is contained in fermented soya beans, and also examines if a glass of red wine can really help boost brain power.

### Wentworth Prison

#### Channel 5, 10pm

Welcome back to Wentworth Prison, the Australian jail where the staff are arguably more dangerous than the inmates. It's been four months since Governor Joan Ferguson murdered Jess Warner and set fire to H Block, and she's now being held in Isolation Protection - which should give her more time to dream up new ways to fabricate her innocence.

### TUESDAY

#### The Living and the Dead BBC1, 9pm

Fancy a spooky new drama to get your teeth into? Then this series starring Colin Morgan should be

just the ticket. When the death of his mother brings Nathan Appleby and his wife Charlotte back to the family estate in Somerset, they must turn the farm's fortunes around or risk ruin, and the devastation of the local community. However, when a vulnerable teenage girl is brought to Nathan, seemingly possessed by a terrifying spirit, he cannot leave her to suffer. He must use every psychological technique he has to find a way to free her from this terrible burden.

### WEDNESDAY

#### Britain's Favourite Dogs ITV, 8pm

A countdown of the nation's 10 favourite breeds, based on a survey of 1,000 dog owners, discovering how the favourites have changed over the years. The survey also uncovers what makes people fall head over heels for a particular type of dog, with almost a quarter of all households in the UK accommodating one of man's best friends. The programme gets to meet the owners of some of Britain's most outstanding pooches, before revealing which breed emerges as top dog.

### THURSDAY

#### Ramsay's Hotel Hell Channel 4, 10pm

New series. Gordon Ramsay uses his wealth of experience in the restaurant business to help more struggling hotels, motels and B&Bs across America, putting the owners and staff to work as he attempts to save their establishments from disaster. He begins with a visit to Angler's Lodge in Island Park, Idaho. Owner Dave Eby built the lodge with his own hands, but a family tragedy has caused him and wife Dede to shy away from the hotel and the community. Gordon is desperate to help mend this broken family - but is it too late to save their business?

### FRIDAY

#### Gogglesprogs Channel 4, 8pm

Young TV viewers watch a range of programmes, from entertainment shows to

documentaries and classic films, as well as up-to-the-minute news reports. In London, childhood friends Shuaib and Janai love watching cartoons together. In Birmingham, mates Edie and Teanna are both in the school book club, and in Leicester are six-year old Geet and her four-year-old brother Hanson, who wants to be a Formula 1 racing driver.

### The Last Leg Channel 4, 10pm

Originally just a nightly Paralympics round-up on Channel 4, this show fronted by Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker, has become a massive success mainly due to it having exactly the right amount of edgy humour to break down barriers over disability and any other topics the public may feel are 'awkward'. So central is this idea to the show that there's even a twitter handle, #istotk, which allows viewers to tweet questions. This provides some of the best moments - partly for confronting the dilemma party in providing an excuse for Hills, Widdicombe and Brooker to cite the most stupid and/or offensive thing they have recently heard. Tonight the trio are joined by celebrity guests for a comic review of the past seven days, answering more edgy current affairs questions that other shows might duck.

The Living and the Dead, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

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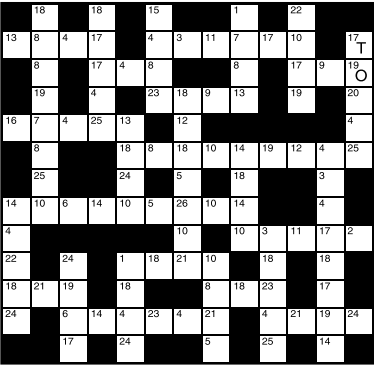
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:  
Z K C V P D T L G N Y F E  
U I O R B H J W X M A Q S

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

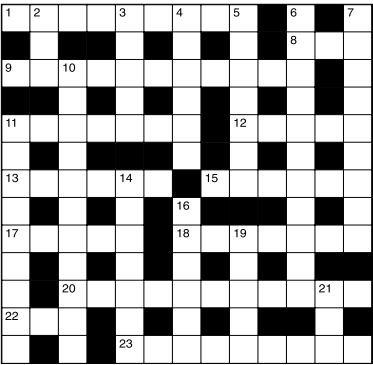
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Widespread, as far as one can see (9)
- 8. Member of some particular minority (3)
- 9. Be careful on the dodgery, for example? (4,7)
- 11. Stops work and goes to bed (7)
- 12. Surpass with some complex cello playing (5)
- 13. To mother it's a female illness (6)
- 15. A draughtsman's intention? (6)
- 17. Mean to a girl (5)
- 18. What to write about a recital? (7)
- 20. Lanes that lead out of sight? (5,6)
- 22. There's nothing in vanilla left (3)
- 23. String net becomes entangled, leaving no loopholes (9)

Down

- 2. Turkish officer is against, but not this month (3)
- 3. Quarrelsome sculler (5)
- 4. The doctor got up, looking surly (6)
- 5. He's nice, perhaps, and from the East (7)
- 6. A ring that can work wonders (5,6)
- 7. Possibly alum can be for those who are ill (9)
- 10. You can't take anything like this (11)
- 11. Causing a trying delay? (9)
- 14. Books of record I'd brought up to sign (7)
- 16. It helps you to reach new heights (6)
- 19. It is in fact a long claw (5)
- 21. Craving for Japanese money (3)



Quick Clues:

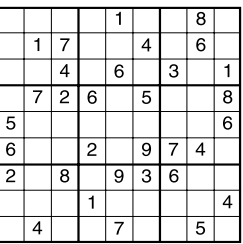
Across

- 1. Irresolute (9)
- 8. Deprive (3)
- 11. Concentrated (7)
- 12. Offspring (5)
- 13. Buggy (6)
- 15. Gracious (6)
- 17. Perch (5)
- 18. Desecrate (7)
- 20. Feat (11)
- 22. In bloom (3)
- 23. Virago (9)

Down

- 2. Born (3)
- 3. Vessel for milk (5)
- 4. Waver (6)
- 5. Complete collapse (7)
- 6. Rash (11)
- 7. Plenty (9)
- 10. Worsen (11)
- 11. Ducking (9)
- 14. Small axe (7)
- 16. Seem (6)
- 19. Musical drama (5)
- 21. Woman in religious order (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	6	4	7	5	8	1	3	9
5	1	8	3	4	9	2	7	6
9	7	3	2	1	6	5	4	8
4	9	2	5	6	7	8	1	3
7	8	6	4	3	1	9	5	2
1	3	5	8	9	2	4	6	7
3	4	9	6	8	5	7	2	1
6	2	1	9	7	4	3	8	5
8	5	7	1	2	3	6	9	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Uproot; 8 Feline; 10 Sham-poo; 11 Gene; 12 Flee; 13 Rates; 17 Might; 18 Page; 22 Error; 23 Mastery; 24 Modest; 25 Portia. Down: 1 Puts off; 2 Breaker; 3 Loops; 4 Reigned; 5 Giant; 6 Level; 9 Not at home; 14 Degrass; 15 Talents; 16 New Year; 19 Seems; 20 Crude; 21 Estop. QUICK - Across: 7 Origin; 8 Compel; 10 Besides; 11 Title; 12 None; 13 Topic; 17 Spoil; 18 Solo; 22 Antic; 23 Thought; 24 Paltzy; 25 Quiver. Down: 1 Combine; 2 Dissent; 3 Finds; 4 Contain; 5 Spile; 6 Alter; 9 Associate; 14 Spectre; 15 Forgive; 16 Contort; 19 Happy; 20 Still; 21 Bogus.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. Of which words is pixel a contraction?
- 2. In which county is Scafell Pike?
- 3. Who played the Catwoman in the film Batman Returns?
- 4. How is the N American caribou also known?
- 5. In Greek mythology, of what was Irene the goddess?
- 6. By what name is the marsupial Sarcophilus harrisii better known?
- 7. In which castle was Edward II murdered?
- 8. How many letters are there in the Greek alphabet?
- 9. At which game was actor Omar Sharif an expert?
- 10. Which subatomic particle is named after the Greek for 'first'?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Mount Sinai; 2 Peter Cushing; 3 Scotland; 4 Alfred the Great; 5 George Best; 6 Myanmar; 7 Trumpet; 8 A tree or its fruit; 9 Marchioness; 10 Mormonism.  
Niner: DEFORMING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 824 gives a boy's name,
- 6769 gives a girl's name,
- 16235 gives another girl's name.



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Sweet and spicy – curry shrimp and mango



Jamaican brown chicken one pot with rice



Bright and bold – inside the restaurant



A taste of the Caribbean – Turtle Bay, Birmingham

# Turtle may be popular but not sure I would be willing to shell out again

**YOU** know when you go somewhere for dinner and you have really high expectations. You really want it to be amazing?

That's exactly how I felt about Turtle Bay. I'd heard some really good things from friends and colleagues that had been and so I was really looking forward to my first visit to give the food a try.

I'd popped in for drinks on a few occasions previously and each time not only was the bar packed, but the restaurant heaving with diners. So for a recent family meal, with two small children, it seemed the perfect place – not too pricey, laid back and fun.

What I'd liked most about the venue from previous experience was the holiday feel you got from standing at the bar, sipping a few cocktails and soaking up the colourful

By Lisa Wright

Caribbean decor and music. There really was a buzz about the place. And the menu looked really tempting too, and split into a number of different sections depending on what you're after.

I'm a huge fan of Caribbean food with my father hailing from Jamaica and there's a real shortage of restaurants offering the cuisine, so I was looking forward to what was on offer. The menu looked tempting, throwing in some more traditional dishes with those I wasn't expecting to see.

We'd got a table for six people booked for 6.30pm on a Thursday evening and when we arrived it wasn't ready, so we were invited to wait in the entrance area and pointed to a table – a table full of dirty glasses and plates from the previous occupants. Not great.

When our table was ready it took another half an hour for drinks to arrive. If I hadn't been out with the family and two small children I would have walked out already, but we waited patiently. There was no children's menu so my niece and nephew – aged eight and five – chose from the lighter menu, both going for the quarter jerk chicken and chips.

## Seasoning

Some of us wanted starters and we went for the beef patty, jerk glazed ribs and chilli fried squid. It took a while for the food to arrive, but when it did it was tasty.

The beef patty was seasoned well and the pastry cooked nicely. The shrimp also went down a treat. The ribs were quite small as a portion, but the meat was tender. However, the jerk seasoning was very spicy – definitely not one for the kids.

For mains, my niece loved her jerk chicken and chips, the chicken was mild and moist. My nephew's fries however, were so overcooked we had to send them back.

My mum wolfed down her curry, shrimp and mango one pot, which was loaded with shrimps, mango and sweet potatoes and got the firm thumbs-up. While my sisters enjoyed their Jamaican browned chicken one pot and the jerk salmon, which was a generous piece of fish with a tasty, crispy skin.

However my dish – the Mo'Bay chicken – was a real disappointment.

The main problem was that the chicken breast had been chargrilled first and then smothered in a creamy sauce. What resulted was just a burnt taste of chicken that the sauce couldn't hide. But my biggest bugbear of the night was the service. In a word, it was slow.

I'm not sure I'd be in a hurry to return.

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"The 'from' price and price bands vary for each show — see brochure/web page for details.

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here, often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe. The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again.

Omega Holidays offer a superb portfolio of theatre breaks, managing the whole show package which includes travel, either by coach or rail, four-star accommodation and various price bands for each show. Make your own way breaks are also available to book.

### Rail inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night Theatre from £169.<sup>95</sup>

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital.

There's a selection of London hotels to choose from (supplements may apply) and rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday.

The ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

### Rail inclusive breaks – Three days

Theatre Showstopper from £239.<sup>95</sup>

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday returning on Sunday.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade, plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel (supplements may apply).

Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

### Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night from £149.<sup>95</sup>

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.<sup>95</sup>

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option, see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the evening performance (meal not included).

Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket and the option to upgrade plus an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel.



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Even cushions have a place in the 'boy zone' with seating a priority



Men are taking more control of home decor, with plenty of products on the market

# Men: Make a stand and muscle in on the decor

By Gabrielle Fagan

**THE days of men having no say on the home style front are long gone.**

Move over decor divas – men are muscling in on interiors and creating impressive temples of style. While they were once seen only as DIY-ers, who wouldn't be seen dead dithering over Elephant's Breath or Downpipe (paint shades, in case you're wondering), blokes are now exploring their taste, and becoming as fussy about their homes as they are their cars and clothes.

"Men have grown in confidence about expressing their personal style and being aware of trends. They're becoming just as savvy about interiors, knowledgeable about furniture designers and specific about a look they want to live with," says Benjamin Hanley, who works at contemporary furniture specialists, West Elm.

"We're seeing them buying into mid-century and industrial styles. These have quite masculine, structural aesthetics, which offer big impact.

"We encourage them to select a statement piece of furniture they love as a starting point, and then build around that, so their look can grow and emerge.

"A sleek, sophisticated pared-back look, with a colour palette at the darker end of the spectrum, is currently the most popular."

**Here's how to create the ultimate man-zone...**

## MALE TERRITORY

"A home needs to be a sanctuary and for modern-day men, it's a place to show off personal style. While the basic ingredients were once leather, shagpile carpets and lava lamps, today's reality is about a classy yet comfortable space, which makes the most of minimalism and shows off gadgetry," says Anna Gillespie, guest editor at Anglian Home Improvements.

"My advice would be steer clear of a boring black and grey colour scheme and opt for lighter neutral shades, such as cream and white, and then add on-trend bursts of bright colours – racing car red or green, or even emerald green and bright blue."

**TIP:** Lighting can transform mood and atmosphere.

## GAME OF THRONES

You're the boss at home, so choose a 'hot' seat which combines cutting-edge style with comfort.

"Seating's key and a sofa, usually the largest piece in a living room, should be in harmony with the overall decor scheme," says Rebecca Snowden, interior style advisor at Furnica Choice.

"The industrial trend is particularly male-friendly as it creates an air of relaxed informality and relies on colour and texture in natural materials, rather than fussy detail.

"Choose chunky, leather sofas or a Chesterfield – a 'gentlemen's club' classic.

"Other characteristic ingredients are ex-



Framed artwork gives a more sophisticated look than posters on the walls, which hark back to student days



Plenty of storage is essential for all those bits and bobs



Make a statement with striking items that catch the eye

posed concrete floors or polished concrete walls, brickwork, ladder shelving and metal lighting fixtures.

"The advantage of this urban-luxe style is that new pieces can be added over time.

"Mismatching is fine and won't jar, because the whole look should have an eclectic feel."

**TIP:** No bachelor pad's complete without high-spec media kit and gadgets. Create an 'entertainment hub'.

## GET DOWN & DETAILED

Fuss and frills have no place in any self-respecting male's zone, but cool, covetable pieces do and they'll ramp up your design credentials.

"In the past, a man's priority for furniture and interior choices was largely practicality, but the finer points of design, aesthetics and craftsmanship are now regarded equally important," says Claire Hornby, creative and display manager

at Barker & Stonehouse. "The truly design-savvy are confident enough to opt for bold choices - and allow them to star in a room; maybe a brightly coloured sofa or a distinctive reclaimed wooden table."

**TIP:** Don't overlook framed art – posters stuck on a wall just harks back to student days.

Create a display of your favourite pictures with matching frames in an assortment of sizes.

## Stay safe with BBQ tips from Ciindy...

AS the temperature warms up and we dare to believe we may see summer this year, thousands of people will be getting out the barbecues to enjoy freshly cooked food with friends and family.

Yet having a real fire in an open space can be dangerous if it's not managed properly and cause lasting damage.

Here are AskCiindy.com's top tips for enjoying a barbecue safely:

1. Never leave a lit barbecue unattended. Its common sense but it's easy to get distracted when you socialising and relaxing with friends and family.

2. Make sure that your barbecue is on level ground and is well away from sheds, fences, trees, shrubs or garden waste.

3. Keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby so that you can quickly deal with any emergencies.

4. Keep children, garden games and pets well away from the cooking area.

5. Make sure your barbecue is in good working order and follow the safety instructions provided with the barbecue when you use it.

6. If you are using charcoal, use only enough to cover the base of the barbecue to a depth of about 5cm (2 inches). Only use fire lighters or starter fuel to light it, never use petrol.

7. If you are using gas, make sure the tap is turned off before changing the gas cylinder. Change cylinders in a well ventilated area, its best to do this outside if possible. When you have finished cooking, turn the gas cylinder off before turning off at the controls to ensure any gas in the pipe work is used up.

8. Make sure the barbecue is cool before trying to move it.

9. When you empty out the ashes, empty them onto bare garden soil, not into dustbins or wheelie bins. If they're hot, they can melt the plastic and cause a fire.

10. No matter what the weather throws at you, never move a lit barbecue inside as this is a huge safety risk.

David Ross, director of communications at AskCiindy.com said: "It's so rare that we get a day where it is warm enough to eat outside that most of us grab the first chance we can to get the grill out.

## Damage

"Barbecues are a great way to bring friends and family together and when they are done properly they can be a lot of fun for all involved.

"There are tens of thousands of fires started in bins each year, some of which are due to barbecue ashes not being disposed of properly.

"Insurers often see claims for fires starting in bins, which if left next to a house can cause devastating damage. By using your common sense and making sure you barbecue safely, everyone can relax and enjoy themselves. Now, we just need the weather to cooperate!"

"Ciindy" is an online character to help people with any questions they have about insurance.

She was created by The Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) to guide consumers through the world of insurance.

Consumers can see Ciindy at [www.AskCiindy.com](http://www.AskCiindy.com), ask questions about insurance and view free online guides.

Ciindy explains the jargon of how insurance works, and helps people understand different insurance policies.

For more information visit: [www.AskCiindy.com](http://www.AskCiindy.com)

## OUTDOOR FUN

Keep youngsters amused in the garden with some outdoor toys and activities. Here's some of the newest products to the market:

### Garden Games Jumbo Hi-Tower

Kids can stack 58 wooden blocks to build the highest tower they can, to a maximum height of 1.5m, and take turns to remove pieces without making the tower tumble. Suitable from six years. £29.99, [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

### My Vegetable Patch Kit

Get your little gardener growing with this kit, which includes three pots, a tray, compost and carrot, radish and lettuce seeds. Suitable from six years. £16, [www.nhmshop.co.uk](http://www.nhmshop.co.uk)

### Little Tikes Go Green Playhouse

A playhouse to help teach youngsters about the environment, with eco-friendly features including a solar light, working pump sink, recycling centre, water reservoir and flower garden. Suitable from 2-8 years. £269.99, [www.littletikes.co.uk](http://www.littletikes.co.uk)





# Opportunity to purchase a fine period property

KINGSWINFORD  
£549,000

A huge period three-storey detached family home which has been extensively improved and re-appointed, 'Daycot', Stream Road, Kingswinford, lies gently elevated beyond a large full width driveway.

In a highly regarded address, with an extensive and beautifully laid out rear garden, this six double-bedroomed residence is for sale through Taylors at £549,000.

In all, this sale is giving an exceptional opportunity to purchase a fine period property of superb quality throughout, within a highly desirable and convenient location.

The huge rear garden is a further superb feature of the property, having been expensively landscaped to include extensive lawns, various patio areas, including a barbeque area with wooden gazebo, a stream water feature and koi pool.



With gas central heating and double glazing it has a porch, a fine reception hall with stairs off, a light wood style floor, and quality 'light oak' finish doors off as well as a guest WC.

The large sitting room has a stained/leaded window to the side, a log burner in a period-style fireplace surround and light wood-style floor. The formal dining room has superb views of the rear garden, French doors, a patterned stained/leaded window to the side, a feature 'Louis' style fireplace surround and wood-style floor. The breakfast room/snug has French-style doors to the rear garden and a large pantry/store off. The extended bespoke luxury kitchen has high gloss finish units. The six double bedrooms, four en-suites and a family bathroom are laid out over the first and second floors.

Outside is a full width driveway, a large garage and huge rear garden. Contact Taylors on 01384 401777 or visit [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk)



## extended family home in a popular location is immaculately

HALESOWEN  
£189,950 >>>

Immaculately presented, this extended family home in a popular location in Long Innage, Halesowen is deceptively spacious.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £189,950.

It has a large lounge/dining room, a superb fully fitted kitchen with a range of expensive integrated appliances, a utility/sitting room, recently installed fitted wet room, three good sized bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor.

The property also has gas central heating and double glazing, a garage and beautifully maintained front and rear gardens with panoramic views from the rear. The most attractive and well maintained rear garden, accessed from the utility/sitting room comprises patio area with raised beds and steps leading to the further garden area with patio, mature shrubs and ornamental walling. Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit [www.hickshadley.com](http://www.hickshadley.com)



## Unique property with open plan living space

DUDLEY  
£360,000 <<<

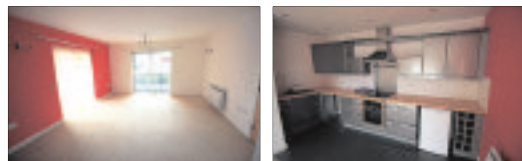
A truly unique luxurious family home with four bedrooms, three reception rooms, a conservatory and granny annexe in Dudley Road, Dudley, has easy access to Sedgley village.

It is for sale through Trinity Property at £360,000. Its accommodation briefly comprises a grand hallway, character lounge with large walk-in bay, an open plan further lounge with a conservatory, dining area and kitchen which really does have the WOW factor, a further reception room, a utility room, a downstairs WC and then a rare granny annexe with wet room and an open plan kitchen dining area and lounge. To the first floor the master suite includes a dressing room and en-suite and the two further bedrooms upstairs also have en-suites. There is an extensive driveway to the front and a large secluded garden to the rear.

Call Trinity Property on 01384 213395 or visit [www.trinityproperty.net](http://www.trinityproperty.net)







**THE EMBANKMENT MERRY HILL**

A well presented two bedroom, first floor apartment located on the Merry Hill Centre, Accommodation comprises of Communal entrance, Private entrance hall with video entry phone, Open plan lounge/ kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms, master having en-suite shower room. The property further benefits from having double glazing, electric heating, secure gated parking for one vehicle and communal grounds. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING: D DSS:NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: NO

**£550PCM DEPOSIT £650 • FEES**



**KINGS MEWS KINGS COURT WOLLASTON**

A modern two bedroom ground floor apartment situated within walking distance of Wollaston Village. The accommodation comprises of: Communal entrance hall with entry phone system, private entrance hall, open plan lounge/kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts electric heating, double glazing, patio and off road parking to the fore. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

**£525.00PCM DEPOSIT £625 • FEES**

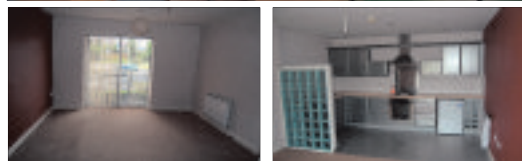


**RICHARDSON DRIVE WOLLASTON**

A well presented two bedroom end terrace property in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms, bathroom and rear gardens. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D

DSS: NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS: NO

**£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 • FEES**



**TIMES SQUARE MERRY HILL**

A very well presented one bedroom apartment situated in the heart of the Merry Hill centre, close to all amenities. The accommodation comprises of secure entrance, private entrance hallway, open plan kitchen with integral appliances/lounge. Double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, electric heating and secure underground parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D

DSS: NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:NO

**£515.00PCM DEPOSIT £615 • FEES**



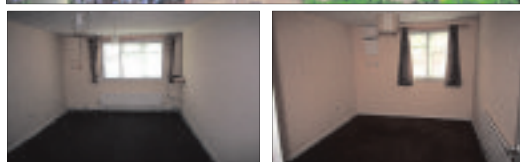
**THE OVAL RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE**

An unfurnished two bedroom semi detached property situated within the vicinity of Russells Hall Hospital with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, rear lobby, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, front and rear gardens and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: MAY CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

**£495.00PCM DEPOSIT £595 • FEES**



**PROPERTY OF THE WEEK**



**JOHN STREET BRIERLEY HILL**

This modern style one bedroom ground floor apartment can be found ideally situated for all local amenities with accommodation to comprise: Porch, Reception hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and shower room. The property further benefits from having communal gardens, off road parking, gas central heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

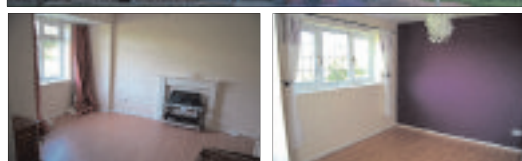
**£410.00PCM DEPOSIT £510 • FEES**



**REDHOLME COURT STOURBRIDGE**

A two bedroom first floor apartment located within walking distance of Stourbridge Town Centre. Accommodation to comprise of: Entrance door with security code, private entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen with cooker, bathroom, two bedrooms and ample storage cupboards. The property further benefits from night storage heating, communal gardens and single garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN NO

**£475.00PCM DEPOSIT £575 • FEES**



**DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL**

A well presented two bedroom modern starter home situated in a popular development with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS:

NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

**£450.00PCM DEPOSIT £550 • FEES**



**FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL**

A well presented two bedroom first floor apartment in a popular residential development. The property benefits from double glazing and allocated parking. The accommodation comprises of: Communal entrance hall, Private entrance hall, 'L' Shaped Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom and Two Bedrooms. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING=C DSS:NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: MAY

**£410.00PCM DEPOSIT £510 • FEES**



**HIGH STREET QUARRY BANK**

A spacious one bedroom first floor apartment situated close to all amenities with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom with shower cubicle and separate WC. The property further boasts electric storage heating, decked terrace affording lovely views and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

**£350.00PCM DEPOSIT £450 • FEES**

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# New ultimate Octavia vRS

By John Griffiths

**WHEN Skoda's sporty Octavia vRS first hit the streets 15 years ago, it was seen as something of a practical family saloon which hid its performance light under a bushel.**

But that didn't last for long, when police forces up and down the country began using the discreet vRS as an unmarked, undercover car for bringing road-going offenders to book. It rapidly became something of a legend.

Now Britain is Skoda's number one market for the sporting marque, with a quarter of all Octavias sold here bearing the vRS badge on their bonnet. That still includes the blue light brigade, where the Skoda has to prove itself in performance, handling and braking tests against much more expensive cars before it can even be considered for recruitment.

Now, though, there's a new, ultimate Octavia vRS which doesn't only do the business but looks the part too, with some styling touches which set it apart.

Like its siblings in shares the same modified platform and engine as its perhaps more famous cousin from parent company VW, the Golf GTI. But Skoda's engineers have turned up the wick on the 2.0 litre turbocharged engine, so that it now produces an extra 10PS (to 230PS) of power – hence its full name the Octavia vRS 230.

It also gets the sophisticated electronic differential system first seen in the SEAT Leon Cupra which, with its benefits from traction and sure handling, gave that car the fastest front wheel drive crown on the fast and twisting Nurburgring.

The vRS 230 official 0 to 62mph spring time is 6.7 seconds, only a tenth quicker than the standard 220PS vRS so you begin to see the

significance of the electronic diff. That, plus a modified free-flowing sports exhaust and the modest power increase seem to have done wonders for the Octavia too: it completed the Nurburgring ten whole seconds faster than the standard vRS.

As for its looks, it's not just the vRS badging which sets the new flagship model apart: a gloss black finish on the grill, door mirrors and spoiler, 19-inch alloy wheels, and red brake calipers.

Inside, it has red-stitched leather sports seats (heated and electrically adjustable, naturally), a leather-trimmed multi-function sports steering wheel and sports suspension.

## Potential

There's also a performance mode selection feature: in other words press a button and you unleash the full potential of the 230PS under the bonnet.

That extra kit and performance put the price of the vRS 230 up by £2,500 to £26,580: hardly bargain basement, you might think, but compare that to the higher prices of the Golf GTI and other performance rivals and it begins to look better and better.

The Skoda's cabin is a pleasant place to be, with plenty rake and reach adjustment on the steering wheel and electrically adjustable seats for the driver to find his ideal position.

While the extra power does make a slight difference to performance, it's the fact that this is a VW Group TSI (turbocharged) engine which really dictates the car's character. It endows the vRS with a hefty 350Nm of torque, all of which is available from just 1,500rpm. This gives it the feel of a bigger engine, with get up and go from the moment you touch the throttle, and responsive almost regardless of speed or gear.

But if you do stir the positive six-speed



gearbox and press harder with your right foot, you're rewarded with a surge of acceleration and a pleasing growl from the sports exhaust.

This combination of relatively small engine and turbocharging has other benefits, too. If you drive with a little restraint and avoid going for the growl too often, you can achieve around 40mpg (the official average is 45.5mpg with CO2 emissions of 142g/km).

That's entirely reasonable for a full-sized family saloon with this performance potential.

The Octavia has proved its practicality and durability with families, the emergency services and, of course, taxi drivers – I recently rode in one with 400,000 miles on the clock.

The vRS, of course, may have more go but it's basically the same car with room on board for five with a big boot – 590 litres, in fact, or up to 1,580 litres with the rear seats folded flat.

This new 230 version is, as you'd expect, one of the best equipped, too, with dual zone climate control (and separate outlets for those in the rear), an upmarket audio and connectivity system, touchscreen navigation, sunset glass and that sporty leather upholstery.

To complete the sporting theme, the multi-function trip computer even includes a lap timer: handy if you're planning a trip to the Nurburgring, no doubt.

There is a comprehensive range of safety

equipment, from seven airbags to electronic wizardry such as traction, stability and brake enhance,ent systems, plus hill hold assist and cruise control.

The Octavia, along with its smaller sibling the Fabia hatchback, are the dynamic duo when it comes to driving Skoda forward to its 75,000 UK sales last year – although the much-praised new Superb is making headway too.

The new Octavia vRS 230 flagship will no doubt draw more attention to the Octavia range, which later this year will include a new Sport Line version: similarly equipped to a standard car but with sports styling to broaden the car's appeal.

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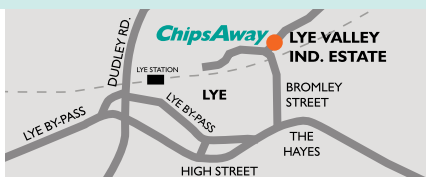
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# Fantastic value for price tag

By John Griffiths

**Given a choice, I suppose most of us would like to be driving a 200mph supercar, or a Hollywood star's limousine: but buying one (and running it) are a very different matter.**

Instead we use our heads and go for the most practical form of transport to meet our own particular needs, within the limits of what we can afford (or want to pay for a car).

So as car prices soar, the entrance of Dacia into the showrooms of Britain and other European countries must have been greeted with a sigh of relief for those without a bottomless pit of money.

One of its most popular models is the Duster, which offers that styling plus space and practicality for the price of a small hatchback. With prices starting from under £9,500 (albeit for a no-frills, rather basic version), the Duster stands out from the crowd of compact SUVs for sheer value for money.

Indeed even the better-kitted versions, with all the features we take for granted and a bit more, cost less than many of its most basic rivals. The test car, for example, a diesel-powered Laureate model costs from under £14,000 even with the addition of the optional satnav and multi-media system, with remote controls on the steering wheel.

The Duster recently enjoyed a facelift, with some styling touches to add to its visual appeal. There's a new chrome grille, Duster branded roof bars, new, higher quality upholstery, and – in the case of the Laureate – body coloured door handles, 16-inch alloy wheels

dark metal wing mirrors and chrome scuff plates front and rear.

The cheap look of the plastic interior components is broken up with a high gloss finish on areas such as the armrest and interior door handles. Not that plastic is necessarily a bad thing – just ask parents of young children and dog owners who want surfaces that are quick and easy to wipe.

The Duster seats four adults easily (five at a pinch) with plenty of head and leg room even in the back. The cargo space puts many compact SUV and family hatchback rivals to shame – 475 litres with a full complement of passengers, and an impressive 1,636 litres with rear seats folded down.

## Complemented

The test car was a front wheel drive only model (four wheel drive adds £2,000 to the price) powered by a Renault-derived turbo diesel, producing 109bhp complemented by 260Nm of torque.

It's official (from the standard laboratory test) fuel average is 62.8mpg, which translates into a low CO2 emissions figure of 115g/km (VED band C).

Laboratory test figures, as we know, rarely translate into real world results but I was happy with the 52mpg achieved over a week of mixed motoring.

The car has an Eco button, plus a selectable stop/start system, to help you eke out precious fuel. An insurance rating of 11A will help to keep running costs down too.

Performance (0 to 62mph in 11.8 seconds) is plenty to get you up to the motorway limit or keep up with everyday traffic, without feeling like hard work or undue noise. Indeed, cruising at speed is a relaxed and refined affair, particularly as the quite soft suspension flattens



out the bumps and undulations on some of our poorer road surfaces.

While this is a front wheel drive only model, the car has a raised ride height, scuff plates, long travel suspension plus traction and stability controls which means it does have some limited off-road ability – certainly more than a standard hatchback, anyone.

The 4x4 versions also get a centre differential lock, where you can select two wheel drive for on-road economy, an auto option for slippery roads or a full lock mode for off-roading and snow.

The vehicle's height, plus suspension which is also used on the 4x4 models, means you can't expect the handling dynamics of a hot

hatch but the Duster can be hustled along without excessive body roll. The steering is light and stable in the straight ahead position. The six-speed gearbox has a slick action, and the Duster's brakes are well up to the task.

The centre of the Laureate's dash features a touch screen control for the optional satnav plus the audio (radio and CD player) controls, phone and USB connectivity.

Standard Duster equipment includes front and side airbags, ABS with emergency brake assist, traction control and an electronic stability programme, electric front windows, and remote central locking.

The higher specification Laureate also has alloy wheels, satin chrome roof rails and scuff

plates, manual air conditioning, a split/fold rear seat, electric windows all round, a height adjustable steering wheel front fog lights, a cruise control/speed limiter and a multi-function trip computer.

While the basic Duster at £9,500 and powered by a 1,600cc petrol engine, is the bargain basement the diesel-powered Laureate is the bargain.

Whichever way you look at it, the Duster is outstanding value for money.

The warranty covers you for three years or 60,000 miles but for £395 you can extend that for another two years, or for a one-off £850 you can have peace of mind for seven-years or 100,000 miles.

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## CLARACH BAY CARAVAN PARK

ABERYSTWYTH  
3 bedroom static caravan, sleeps 8, CH, DG, timber decking, fees paid 2016.  
Sea view.  
£11,995.  
01902 441210/07816 272574

## HAFRYN JUBILEE DELUXE

Caravan, Holiday Park, Porthmadog  
All Deluxe CH, DG, Sleeps six. Ready to occupy. All fittings. Insured. Site fees paid.  
£18,000 ono.  
0782 5338530.

## STATIC CARAVAN

With decking, on private plot, quiet site in Mid Wales. No age limit, 2 fishing pools, 20 minutes to nearest coast, ground rent included for 2016.  
£5,995 ono.  
07555 303350.

## STATIC CARAVAN 35 X 10

6-berth with decking, Mid Wales. Site fees paid for 2016. Dog friendly.  
£4,500.  
07922 351352 No texts.

WILLERBY GRANADA 37x12, CH, DG, 2 bedrooms, green, on new site. 01746 861192.

## caravans wanted

## WANTED ALL CARAVANS

Any age or condition  
Also motorhomes wanted.  
TOP PRICES PAID  
Immediate collection.  
CALL THOMAS  
07776373150

## jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR  
Sunday 26th June

## KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE

DY7 6ER  
10.30am - 4pm  
Tel: 01384 894464

## music shop

TWO HONER button key accordions complete with original Honer hard cases. £250 each in excellent working condition. 01902 918187.  
VIOLIN PLUS MUSIC Books £110.  
01384 444014.

## sports & leisure

## Free Ads

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY  
For items upto £250.  
Online at  
bookanad.  
expressandstar.co.uk

## holidays

## self catering holidays

## BURNHAM-ON-SEA

Self Catering Holiday Apartments  
Disabled Facilities  
Pet Friendly  
01278 794111  
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

## what's on

## antique fairs

ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR  
Every month, Codsall Village Hall, Sunday 26th June 9am-3pm. Call Brian: 07923 538178.

## markets

## STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT

At Stourbridge Rugby Club  
Open every Wednesday from 18th May  
07957 399964

## 3 Home & Services

## furniture

COMPUTER DESK with shelf for printer, very good condition, £30. 01562 851658.

COMPUTER DESK, with shelf for printer, very good condition, £30. Telephone 01562 851658.

CONSERVATORY furniture, 2 small cane glass topped tables £30, cane bookcase, £20, plant stand £10. Offers accepted. 01902 871540.

FARM HOUSE table and four chair, very good condition, £250. Collect only. 01562 851658.

FARM HOUSE table and four chair, very good condition, £250. Collect only. 01562 851658.

HIDEABED 2 single beds, space saver, excellent for spare room as pulled out equates to large double. £100 collect only. 01562 851658.

HIDEABED 2 single beds, space saver, excellent for spare room as pulled out equates to large double. £100 collect only. 01562 851658.

PINE CHEST OF DRAWERS, approx 37ins wide x 46ins high, very good condition, £100. Collect only. 01562 851658.

PINE CHEST OF drawers, approx 37" wide, x 46" high, very good condition, £100. Collect only. 01562 851658.

THREE SEATER settee and two seater settee, both dark brown leather, good condition, £100 will separate. 07800 880842.

## household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent condition. £85 can deliver. 07493 919511.

## in your garden

ATCO ELECTRIC lawnmower, steel roller, grassbox, 2 years old, little used, £100 ono. 01902 573176.

HANGING BASKETS, geraniums, begonias and trailing plants. Competitive Prices. W H Brown 01902 762500.

## LAWN TRACTOR

22hp, 42 inch cut with collector, totally new and unused. Cost £3,500.

Will accept £1,850. Can deliver. Telephone 07710 169150.

## items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

## items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT UP TO £300 PER OUNCE  
CASH PAID TODAY  
A GENUINE LADY BUYER

All Jewellery • Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings • Watches • Costume Jewellery • Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings • All Silver • All Oriental Items • Pre-47 silver coins All war medals etc ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING HOUSE CLEARANCES  
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Antiques, old, reproduction. Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

## A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS  
Any gauge or age

Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.

01384 836219/07891 713547.  
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

## READERS ARE ADVISED

to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

## kitchens & bathrooms

COMPLETE KITCHEN AND APPLIANCES FOR SALE  
Maple, shaker type.

Integrated fridge / freezer / dishwasher.

Zanussi built in double oven and hob / extractor.

Sink / drainer and taps, 12 base units / top units and end corner units, centre island.

Very good condition. To collect only. (Hagley Area) £1,250.

01562 883819.

## t.v. / home entertainment

## service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

## specialists at your service

## aerials

## AA DIGITAL AERIALS

1 AERIAL INTO 2 ROOMS £90  
WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE  
Work Guaranteed  
01902 858191  
01384 429166  
01543 439095  
07922 716029  
07833 738857

VISA Checkatrade.com

## alarms/security

## PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
Call: 0121 601 9791

## carpet & upholstery cleaning

## Classified Ads

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME  
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"  
Paul Westwood  
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL  
01902 319 191  
Brought to you by Express & Star

## A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

OAP discount. Recession Prices. Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10  
Call Paul 07870 341089

A BRILL CLEAN for your Carpets & Suite. O.A.P Discounts. Best Prices. Call Steve 07496 922324.

## double glazing

ATS DOUBLE GLAZING UPVC back doors from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. 01922 442720.

## electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL  
Rewires/sockets/fuses boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

## external rendering / insulation

EXTERIOR RENDERING (full houses, patching, textured/smooth. 40yrs exp. Stuart 01902 324727.

## fencing

## PORTWAY FENCING

SPECIAL OFFER  
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 9am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, W'bury  
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

## gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...

## Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING

Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

## GARDENS TIDIED

from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

## gas fitting

## READERS ARE ADVISED

To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

## house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID for house clearances and bereavements. Shops, Schools and Commercial clearances. Also removals undertaken. All rubbish removed. Contents stored held 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

## ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED

FULL OR PART GARAGES / SHEDS, RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE  
01384 486456 / 07711661135

## painters / decorators

HODGETTS DECORATORS. All aspects of commercial and domestic work. C & G qualified. Free quotes. Call 01902 324128.

## LOVE 2 WALLPAPER

Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painter & Decorators. Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken  
01384 287577 or 07812 484194

## plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES. For All Your Home and Garden Improvements. Over 30 Years Experience. Call Mark or Sara on 07741 770897.

## plumbing & heating

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS  
Over 35 years experience in the industry. All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping. Discounts offered.  
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

## removals

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2889 or 07815 043724

## CALL DEAN NOW

For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

## A & M CHEAP REMOVALS

Local Careful Firm  
Full or Part loads  
Call Don:  
07749 941319

## A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES

Single items, Full houses, Offices etc  
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES  
We take the stress away  
40 years experience  
07966 281957

## CALL IAN

Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

## CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN

Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

## Stourbridge Removals

20+ YEARS EXP Home, Office, Part loads, landlord clean & repair service. House clearances. Quality service guaranteed lowest rates  
Call John - 07802 876 876 office - 01562 640 640

## roofing

## T L Fowkes Roofing & Building Solutions

FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST call or email  
07896 334 946  
t.fowkes@yahoo.co.uk

Experts in all roofing and building aspects including:  
• Flat roofing • GRP roofing • Slate and tile roofing • uPVC and all major building works

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

## skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

## 4 Pets & Animals

## equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if horses have the required Passport information.

## guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy, big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

## WEBLEY .22 AIR RIFLE

With telescopic sight, Birmingham made, perfect condition, complete with original leather carrying case.  
£300.  
01902 918187.

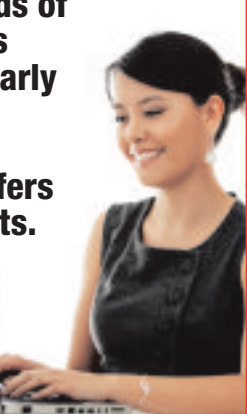
## pets corner

A BILLY Wilson Puppy, superior Labrador black, hand trained to perfection, walk, sit, stay, £350 plus vac, vet, chip, £395. 07932 654861.

## BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT

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expressandstar.co.uk

and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.



## Classified Ads



**GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS**  
All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.  
Call 01922 41212 or  
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk  
RTG Wolverhampton  
@RGTWolves

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BENJI

Very small pretty black lurcher boy, sadly in rescue through no fault of his own, only two years old, needs other dogs or children to play with as he is a friendly happy little boy, loves cuddles, ideal little pet.

Currently in foster care needs a loving kind home.

01691 657212 or 01588 620322

**CANARIES FOR SALE** cocks and hens, all last years stock, 07780 540319 Stourport on Severn.

**JEFFRY'S DOG WALKING** / sitting service, Winton Cat feeding / toileting, OAP rates. 07974 913703

**RAINBOW BABY BUDGIE** as new cage and all accessories including food and sand sheet. £30 one 07716 847443.

**TOY COCKAPOO** Pups, Mom is Show Cocker, Dad, Toy Poodle, 1st Vacs, 4 weeks insurance, clipped, From £595, 01952 730522.

**5 Business & Farming**

**business opportunities**

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

**6 Property**

**accommodation to let**

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**BRIDGORTH** 2 bed furnished flat with parking, Kings Loade area £550pcm. 07530 401557.

**DUDLEY** Furnished One bed flat, 887p/w, suit mature DSS only. 07850 02949

**MODERN TWO BED** Apartment, ground floor, Dudley Port. £495pcm. No DSS. 07886 357429.

**1-BED FLAT** fully refurbished kitchen bathroom Brierley Hill NoDSS/pets / smokers. £400pcm 07985 485332

**PENFIELD W-TON** 1 bed self contained flat, DSS, No deposit required. Call / text 07542 657703.

**SELF CONTAINED** flatlet, Lower Gornal, own amenities, recent refurbish, suit single mature person. Call Nathan 07715 603357.

**TWO BED** flat, above shop, Gornal Wood, £475pcm. For details 07852 225618.

**WILLENHALL**, luxury room, furnished, working person, £55pw. Telephone 07401 089298.

**coast & country**

**FOR RENT** CUMBRIA beautiful quiet spot, 4 bedroom farmhouse, all newly decorated and carpeted and outbuilding. For details telephone 01568 708400 any time.

**properties wanted**

**Home Cash Buyer**  
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish  
**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££**  
**Houses / Land Required**  
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089  
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154  
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049  
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901  
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

**A LOCAL BUYER** pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

**overseas property**

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**7 Jobs**

**building & construction**

**PAINTERS & DECORATORS** Time served tradespeople. Direct or sub-contract. Long term work. Call 01562 751197 / 07836 557894.

**office & secretarial**

**GP RECEPTIONISTS** Permanent position for 20.5 hours. Must be able to demonstrate excellent customer service. Experience preferred, hours between 7am - 6pm. CV's to Gemma or Lianne at Worsley Green Health Centre, Worsley Green, Worsley, Stourbridge, DY8 5PD.

**THREE VILLAGES MEDICAL PRACTICE, STOURBRIDGE**

**EXPERIENCED MEDICAL SECRETARY REQUIRED**

Hours negotiable, up to full time if required.  
Salary dependent on skills and experience. Knowledge of medical terminology is essential as are excellent communication skills, flexibility and ability to work as part of a team. Use of EMIS web is highly desirable.

Please apply in writing enclosing your CV to Tracey Williams, Assistant Practice Manager, Three Villages Medical Practice, Stourbridge Health & Social Care Centre, John Corbett Drive, Stourbridge, DY8 4JB or by email to: Tracey.Williams@dudleycgc.nhs.uk  
Closing date 1st July 2016.  
Interviews 11th July 2016 4pm onwards.

**full time - general**

Avanti require a  
**LORRY DRIVER (7.5 ton)**  
To work from Stourbridge depot

- Requirements:
- Current digital tachograph licence
  - Must have CPC driver qualification card
  - Hard working and enthusiastic

Contact: Gavin Skidmore... 01384 899909

Avanti

**Avanti Kitchens Bedrooms & Bathrooms**  
Everything fits in beautifully

High Speed Lasers are a progressive, dynamic and fast growing company supplying laser-cut and folded parts to industry.

A vacancy has arisen for the following position.

**TRUMPF LASER OPERATOR**

required for shift work. Must have experience on operating lasers. Fork lift truck licence preferred but not essential. Wage negotiable depending on experience. Monday-Friday with overtime optional when needed.

Application by e-mail only to  
steve.leashorne@highspeedlasers.co.uk



**TOYOTA HILUX INVINCIBLE**  
05 plate, 67,892 miles, MoT May 2017, fsh, leather, 4wd, a/c, e/w, radio/tape, 5 disc CD, airbags, e/m, o/i, pas, met silver, full zins lift kit, Tunit Advantage performance power upgrade, black modular rims, Micky Thompson AT tyres on top of an already very tidy Invincible truck. £10,500 ono.  
Telephone 01743 792933.

**EXCELLENT CONDITION**  
£2,750 ono.  
07425 136504.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8SRi**  
2007, 9,500 genuine miles, silver, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, CD.  
£2,750 ono.  
07425 136504.

**EXCELLENT CONDITION**  
£2,350 ono.  
07425 136504.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8SRi**  
2007, 9,500 genuine miles, silver, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, CD.  
£2,350 ono.  
07425 136504.

**SELLING YOUR CAR?**

**We have a package to suit every budget.**

Packages start from as little as

**£21.00 for 6 nights Plus**

6 nights free if you do not sell.

**CALL 01902 317878**

**VOLKSWAGEN POLO MODA**

2011, 74,000 miles, black, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, CD, bluetooth.

£5,499.

07779 332203.

**VOLKSWAGEN FOX 1.2CC** One owner, immaculate condition, MoT, FSH, £1,695. 07745 922328.

**VW BEETLE CONVERTIBLE** 05 reg, 85,000 miles, private plate, MoT, excellent condition. £1,995. 07939 029596.

**VW EOS**

Convertible 2.0 diesel, auto, facelift model 2010 60 reg, metallic black with red heated leather, new MoT, 130,000 miles, FSH, only 1 previous owner, new tyres, battery, service.

£5,999.

07877 055652.

**cars under £1500**

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED**

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**AUDI A4 1.8**, 2000, petrol, blue, abs, 8 months MoT, central locking, good condition, £495 ono. 07534 249114.

**CITROEN C3** 06, 1.1L Desire, 113,000 miles, silver, MoT July. £1,200 ono. 07930 374986.

**FIAT SEICENTO SPORTING**, hatch, 1.1, 2002(52), petrol, 62k, 11 months MoT, bodywork excellent, low tax, £595 ono. 07884 215707.

**FORD PUMA**

1.7 (2001) black, good condition for year and low mileage 65,000, majority of service history available, only one previous owner, daily used reliable car, new battery, plugs, leads and coils fitted, cambelt changed, new DAB radio fitted can be negotiated to with purchase, original radio also available, really lovely car, excellent driver, 2 door, central locking, ac, heated front and rear windscreen, MoT

November 2016.

£1,500 ono.

07779 267954.

**JAGUAR XJ6**, 1995, 3.2 litre, 150,000 miles, MoT August 2016, £500.

Telephone 01902 898034.

**LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8**, petrol, 6 months MoT, 2005, black, hard top, good condition, £1,000 ono. 01902 590279. 07510373906.

**MAZDA 323F 1.6**, 2003, 63,500 miles only with history, MoT October, very reliable car, £575 ono. 07727 060196.

**MERCEDES 220 Avant** Garde CDI, auto, 02, MoT, FSH, 2 owners, plus, A/E 118k, PX considered. £1,299. 07979 784585.

**PEUGEOT 306 LX 1400**, 2000, X reg, 9 months MoT, very clean and tidy, £350. 07572 687123.

**ROVER 25**, 52 reg, fully sorted, lovely condition MoT March 2017, head done, clutch, service, alloys, met gold, £550 ono. 07899 865679.

**ROVER 45 5dr**, 12 months MoT, 1.4, 2002, low miles, exceptional condition, great runner, £450. 01384 352130 / 07901 125383.

**SAAB 93 VECTOR** 1.9 turbo diesel, 56 reg., fsh, 109,000 miles, half leather, £1,850. 07708 832841.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6**, 1998, 43,000 miles, MoT, good wheels and tyres, new clutch, very good condition, has possible engine problem, £250 ono. 07492 364161.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 2003**, 62,000 Miles, Silver, electric windows, AC, MoT, central locking, PAS, CD £495 ono. 07893 636637.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE V reg**, spare or repair, MoT November £275 ono. 01902 784244.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 04 reg**, 1198cc, 3 door, silver, lovely car, a/c, e/w, e/m, cd, low mileage, MoT, £1,075. 07426 568014.

**VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB 1.2 16v**, Petrol, green, Manual, 03 reg, long MoT, 92k, Air-Con, 3-dr, A good Runner. £850. 01902 710070.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3CDTi** design 2004, 5dr, silver, electric windows, mirrors, long MoT, central locking, CD. £995 07973 614937

**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DIESEL**

52 reg, 7 seater, silver, alloys, 2 keys, full MoT, 105k, history to 91k, excellent condition.

£895 ono.

07966 663984.

**VOLVO S60 2.0 TURBO** 2001, only 63,000 miles, 12 months MoT, 1 owner, immaculate, looks & drives like new. £395. 07340 401557.

**classic cars**

**WANTED, CLASSIC CARS**, Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797

**commercial vehicles**

**CITROEN BERLINGO** van, white, 06 plate, 80,000 miles, good runner, clean van, never let you down. £1,400 ono. 07966 226638.

**driving tuition**

**Homer's**  
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50! 2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered  
ADVICE REQUIRED. Get vouchers available for £10  
07432 48100 / 01682 970050  
01384 224864 / 0121 5640090  
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

**motorbikes**

**HONDA XL125 V5** 2006, grey, full MoT, very good condition. £1,295 ono. 07866 030218.

**SPIDI** back / chest protector, Optimate 12 volt battery charger, Haynes manual for NTV £25. Call the lot for £50. 01902 341487.

**scrap vehicles**

**OUR ADVERTISERS** are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**MCB**  
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS  
Tel: 01902 408176  
1000's of parts available at all times  
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

**A BETTER PRICE**

for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.

**NINE LOCKS VEHICLE**

**DISMANTLERS LTD**  
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

**vehicles wanted**

**A1 AUTOS WANTED**  
CARS, VANS, 4x4s, SCRAP, MoT FAILURES, ANY CONDITION £50-£10,000  
WE BUY QUALITY USED CARS  
07527 303 336 (24/7, any area) T&C Apply

**alan reed cars**

Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.

01562 711083 / 07831 245313

**CROWN MOTORS** guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549649. 01902 597035.

**spares & accessories**

**clutches / brakes / gearboxes**

**A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE**  
30 yrs experience  
ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob  
01384 251328 or  
07972 169554 anytime

For Example:  
Citroen C1, C2, C3  
Hyundai 110  
Toyota Yaris  
Clics & Micras  
Ring for quotes on others!

**tyres / wheels / exhausts**

**ALLOY WHEEL** for Meriva, as new, never used, 225/45R 17 Victra Sport 01, 5 stud, £200 ono. 0121 550 7458 or 01588 638590

**9 Local Information**

**public & legal notices**

**BERNADETTE MARY ELWELL (Deceased)**  
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above-named deceased, late of Flat 54 Bayle Court Green Street Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 1TZ, who died on 08/05/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 26/08/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

**WALDRONS SOLICITORS**  
Wychbury Court Two Woods Lane Brierley Hill West Midlands DY5 1TA

**HONDA XL125 V5** 2006, grey, full MoT, very good condition. £1,295 ono. 07866 030218.

**SPIDI** back / chest protector, Optimate 12 volt battery charger, Haynes manual for NTV £25. Call the lot for £50. 01902 341487.

**scrap vehicles**

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**MCB**  
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS  
Tel: 01902 408176  
1000's of parts available at all times  
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**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well married brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3000 Box 419673

**BARBARA**, 44, friendly and outgoing but lonely, seeking similar lonely male to pamper, enjoy fun times and affection with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422839

**KIM**, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3004 Box 421657

**MAUREEN**, 38, pretty brunette, new to the area and very lonely, looking to meet someone understanding for convenient friendship, 30-60yrs. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422815

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3008 Box: 409715

**TINA**, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613

**KERRY**, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3040 Box 422363

**CILLA**, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights in front of fire, good wine/food, WLTm similar male who appreciates my interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3016 Box: 413399

**MANDY** 44, fun flirty blonde, petite size 6-8, gorgeous green eyes seeks special male for friendship and uncomplicated love. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422863

**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3020 Box 421375

**GILL**, 61, slim dark eyed blonde seeks tall carefree male who is looking for someone special for fun times with no complications. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422843

**WENDY**, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fun with gent any age. Tel: 0906 515 3032 Box 421605

**JACKIE** 40, slim brunette, with sultry green eyes seeks tall guy with nice eyes who understands women, for some really good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422819

**JESS**, pretty blonde lady, 29yrs, feminine and caring. Loves older mature men who are worldly wise. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. Text Only Box: 4000683

**AFRICANA** lady, 45 yrs, 5ft 8, slim, sensual, creative, interesting, looking for NSA fun with a man of means. Must be non-smoker. Text only Mailbox: 5475056

**KATRIANA**, professional sincere lady, 48yrs, loves to have a good time. Very sensual and loves men of all ages. Please text me for a chat. Text Only Box 4148978

**RITA** 41, exotic olive skinned female, friendly, chatty, loves to entertain, seeks loving honest male to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422723

**ANNE**, 40, pretty professional fun female with great curves, looking for fun and romance with down to earth male looking for similar. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422711

**50YRS**, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422465

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**PETRIANA**, 44, very attractive, voluptuous blonde, with old-fashioned values, seeks romantic down to earth male for a special relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422717

**PASSIONATE**, broadminded curvy lady 67 seeks very assertive discreet young man 25-45 for no strings fun, looks unimportant. Text only Mailbox: 5480845

**JULIE**, petite, slim, attractive blonde young looking early 40's, enjoys wining, dining, theatre seeking good looking romantic male, 45-55, for mutual spoiling. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422709

**JACKIE**, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257

**LADY**, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679

**WIDOW**, 512, looking for a gentleman for friendship, days out, meals out and for friendship and companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422657

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**JEAN**, 75, black hair, hazel eyes, medium build, likes dancing, singing, gardening, bingo, meals out, days out, Scotland, WLTm a gentleman any age for company and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422651

**SARA** 34yr old single mum looking for a genuine male to make me laugh again and help put the spark back into my life. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422541

**SARAH**, brown hair, dark eyes, likes crafts, cooking, cinema, socialising, looking for a male friend, 30-35, possibly leading to relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422589

**JEAN**, 75, lives in West Midlands, likes gardening, bingo, dancing, travelling, generally nice things, WLTm local gentleman for company and friendship, hoping to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422571

**JOANNE**, 48, curvy black female, likes cooking, cinema, socialising, seeking friendship leading to LTR, must be honest, romantic, caring and loyal and have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422633

**LUCY** 37yrs 5ft 11ins brunette, loves nightlife, socialising, having fun, looking for fun guy who can make me laugh and promises a good time. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422455

**JOANNE**, 48, curvy black female, likes cooking, cinema, socialising, seeking friendship leading to LTR, must be honest, romantic, caring and loyal and have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422633

**JOANNE**, 48, curvy black female, likes cooking, cinema, socialising, seeking friendship leading to LTR, must be honest, romantic, caring and loyal and have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422633

**JO** 45, hardworking nurse with crazy sense of humour, looking for fun male with plenty of ideas to spice up her spare time. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422548

**SARA** 34yr old single mum looking for a genuine male to make me laugh again and help put the spark back into my life. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422541

**LORNA** 28, sensual blue-eyed blonde with a beautiful smile, seeking intelligent guy in good shape for new experiences and fun loving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422491

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**MICHELLE**, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422459

**LORRAINE** bored 35yr old looking for discreet no strings fun with likeminded uncomplicated male, any age/looks/status. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241

**SARA**, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455

**LUCY**, 49, just looking to enjoy life, can you help? seeks fun and good times in or out, nothing heavy just no strings meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422223

**CHRISTINE**, 48, petite blue eyed brunette, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy GSOH to make my life complete again. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422245

**MARILYN** blue eyed curvy just right female, 36, loves music, good wine, romantic strolls, cosy nights in, WLTm like-minded romantic for quality times. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422227

**BROWN** eyed brummie female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTm male 66-73, for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 4400186

**CLARA**, 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422005

**JENNY**, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

**CHRIS**, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013

**JENNY**, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

**CURRY** Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421877

**SHARON** a young 49, caring bubbly sincere single female, full curvy figure, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTm male with similar interests. Text only Mailbox: 5444189

**TALL** leggy slim brunette 37, attractive and very much single, WLTm fun loving guy 40-60yrs who loves food, wine, cosy nights in or out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422029

**PETTY**, very fit, young 49 year old female, no baggage, seeks fit, refined male, n/s, with young outlook, for evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421977

**ATTRACTIVE**, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. Text only Mailbox: 5419773

To **Reply** to members call:

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**EMMA** 56, active and always on the go, seeks fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422443

**BARBARA**, 49, attractive green-eyed blonde, OHAC, likes travel, cinema, meals out etc, looking for genuine caring male up to 65yr for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422439

**FEEMALE**, 67, young looking widow, 5ft2, green eyes, likes meals out, holidays, reading, WLTm gentleman of similar age, or older. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422393

**KATHY**, 45, curvy blonde seeking reliable honest man who can get me out of this rut I am stuck in, open to new ideas and looking for someone special? Give me a try. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422263

**KAREN** 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTm for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267

**FEMALE**, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walks, going for meals, cinema and love dogs. Text only Mailbox: 5439974

**JOANNA**, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. Text only Mailbox: 5428223

**SARA**, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455

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**JENNY**, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

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**PETTY**, very fit, young 49 year old female, no baggage, seeks fit, refined male, n/s, with young outlook, for evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421977

**ATTRACTIVE**, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. Text only Mailbox: 5419773

**CILLA**, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights in front of fire, good wine/food, WLTm similar male who appreciates my interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009

**TINA**, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613

**ANNA**, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935

**LOVELY** lady, inside and out, likes music, arts, days out, countryside, poetry, model railways, socialising, DVDs, looking for a kind hearted gent, 52+, with a caring nature and GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935

**FEMALE**, 60s, young looking for my age, likes singing, dancing, meals in and out, theatre, fun to be with. Single would like to meet the same. Text only Mailbox: 5448634

**JOHN**, WLTm a young lady, 18-23, for fun, go to hotels etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422671

**50 year** old male 5ft 10, slim, many interests, WLTm female for possible relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5484066

**MALE**, 71, WLTm lady, 18-23, for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422669

**47 year** old guy, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area, for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422637

**MATURE** male, 50s, looking for a female, 30-60, for adult fun in the b47 area, text only. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422619

**SUGAR** daddy, business man in North Birmingham, would love to spoil a single woman, any age, children no problem. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422599

**50YR** old slim, genuine male, seeks female, any age for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 279508

**GUY** WLTm attractive smart lady, likes a dance or 2 and enjoys days out. Text only Mailbox: 4823044

**MALE** 57, tall, seeks mature female, 50-75, for close adult fun, any size or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422409

**MALE**, 50s, tall, attractive, seeks mature female, 40-70, for mutual sparking. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422429

**RAY**, late 50s, widow, 5ft10, average build, very sporty, broadminded, WLTm a nice lady to go out, have a drink and see how we get on. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422789

**ALAN**, 49, genuine, builder, 6ft, six pack, GSOH, likes a laugh, lives in Coventry, wishes to meet a woman of any age for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422755

**VERY** broadminded male, looking for some adult fun with a hot sexy female, any age, preferably broadminded too. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422823

**SEMI** retired business man, early 60s, well travelled, fit, tanned, good looking, solvent, very discreet, WLTm a female, 35-55, married or single, for wining, dining daytime fun. West Midlands or Staffs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422805

**JOE**, semi retired, young looking and acting, slim and fit, 5ft8, considered good company, looking for daytime meet. Let's see if it clicks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422803

**TALL**, attractive, Shrewsbury male, 57, WLTm an attractive female, any age/status, for discreet daytime fun and excitement. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422801

**MIKE**, 50, tall, brown hair, happy go lucky and ready for anything, seeking a soul mate for good times ahead, West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422799

**ATTRACTIVE** Asian male, 42, likes music, travel, seeks attractive Asian female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361467

**MALE**, 5ft9, medium build, likes sports, WLTm a lady for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422747

**SINGLE** male 50 medium build looking for women to show me the ropes age between 60 - 85, but only. Text only Mailbox: 5423010

**42 yr** old man seeking buxom, voluptuous, 50+ lady for naughty NSA fun. Colour, race etc unimportant. Text only Mailbox: 5480459

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**RETIRED** stonemason, dark hair, 5ft10, likes meals out, pubs, hotels, WLTm a young lady, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422673

**JOHN**, WLTm a young lady, 18-23, for fun, go to hotels etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422671

**50 year** old male 5ft 10, slim, many interests, WLTm female for possible relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5484066

**MALE**, 71, WLTm lady, 18-23, for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422669

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**GUY** WLTm attractive smart lady, likes a dance or 2 and enjoys days out. Text only Mailbox: 4823044

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**MALE**, 50s, tall, attractive, seeks mature female, 40-70, for mutual sparking. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422429

**RAY**, late 50s, widow, 5ft10, average build, very sporty, broadminded, WLTm a nice lady to go out, have





Tony Hedge, Jenny Hughes, Stewart Dudwell, Fizz Rimmer, Alan Hughes, Brian Haynes, Mike Clendon



Young club member Josh Dams, aged 16



Long-standing member Jenny Hughes with young member Josh



Alan and Jenny Hughes met at the tennis club 60 years ago

# Couples court in tennis club's own love match

**A WOLVERHAMPTON tennis club boasts a unique history of match-making – and they are now serving up plans for the future to ensure their legacy continues.**

Formed in 1924 in Finchfield, Linden Lea's history is remarkable. They've survived a World War, redevelopment plans giving them just 12 months to relocate and the tough act of constantly bleeding new members into the club.

The club is set to open its first tennis academy at its impressive hub in the centre of Compton Park campus.

Chairman Alan Hughes has been married to fellow club member Jenny for 54 years. They met at the club more than 60 years ago.

Together, along with up to a dozen other lasting marriages the pair have seen the club peak as not just a tennis club, but also one of the most reputable social meeting points in the area.

## Glorious

But for now Alan, aged 76, and 81-year-old Jenny are thrilled at the plans put in place to ensure the club has a rich future to match its glorious past.

The club certainly has facilities to attract new members having been re-housed 12 months ago to a new base – alongside Wolves' training ground in Compton – which was unveiled by Wolves' chief executive Jez Moxey.

"It's been fantastic to move onto the new site with the brick-built clubhouse and three floodlit courts," said Alan.

"We're on the Compton complex next to Wolves' training base and there are two schools there, St Peter's Collegiate and St Edmund's.

"There is Wolverhampton Girls' High School just

## SPORTING MEMORIES

By Lewis Cox

**"We want more youngsters at the club. We hope the academy will help us with that and get more local kids involved."**

down the road and also Wolverhampton Grammar School, with places like Smestow Academy also close. "The Way Youth Zone in the city are also very keen to be involved.

"We want more youngsters at the club. At the moment we have about 60 senior members and 30 juniors.

"So we hope that the academy will help us with that and get more local kids involved."

Mike Clendon is chairman of the club, which boasts three men's teams competing in the South Staffs Tennis League, along with a women's team.

For their fresh academy unveiling, Hughes and Co are hoping that the brother and sister partnership of Dan and Sally Nicholson will prove a big attraction.

Sally arrives as official coach of the academy, while Dan – who coaches with Wombourne and Worfield tennis clubs, will also be helping out.

The club recently hosted a taster session open day for keen youngsters to come and practise their shots. Alan continued: "We think there is tremendous potential for our club now.

"We have tried before to moderate success but there is real impetus with the new clubhouse and

facilities. Last time we were on older courts, rather caught up on a building site.

"Dan and Sally's help will hopefully really get the academy off the deck.

"We're hoping to have a great relationship with the schools and the youth zone. I know Dan has already been St Peter's to give some sessions."

Driving up interest has not always been a concern for Linden Lea. Hughes explained the secret to long-lasting 'love' – was purely that the club was the place to be.

"In those days we were the centre of junior activity in the area," he said. "We actually had to limit the age that people were able to join at 22. There was even a waiting list!

"It wasn't just tennis. We would go to dances, do swimming – all different social things."

They would regularly hold jumble sales, and visit Swancote Swimming Pool, stopping off for a refreshing trip to the Cider House on the way home.

## Weddings

"As youngsters do when they go to social clubs and spend a lot of time in one place – the young men and women got together," he added.

"There have been lots of weddings, my own included, and all of the partnerships saw a lifetime.

"Some have died now and some moved away, but we have a handful who remain social members and we get together every month.

"Neville Tarratt is 90 now and last year he helped us open the new base, he even gave a speech.

"Roger and Monica Wilkes remain part of our social club and Peter and Joyce Wakeman are still interested in the wellbeing of the club."

While the past remains a fairytale story, Alan is insistent that Linden Lea's latest initiatives will provide a bright future. "It's very easy to think of the past," he said. "But we've got to look forward."



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## New signing is ready to make debut

NEW Cradley signing Richard Andrews is the missing link in the team – and he wants to put that right sooner rather than later.

Andrews will make his debut for the Motor Market side in their home meeting with his former club Eastbourne at Monmore Green on Monday.

He started the season with the Eagles before suffering a broken scaphoid on the opening day of the season – and he's taken longer than expected to recover.

But he was back on a bike at Somerset last Friday and is hoping for some more practice before Monday night.

Heathens have been struggling since Jack Kingston stood aside in May due to increasing pressure away from the sport with work.

Andrews said: "They've been struggling for points in the middle of their team and hopefully I can put that right for them."

"My first meeting is definitely going to be a strange one but I want to get off to a positive start."

"I've been having a laugh with the Eastbourne fans on Facebook – they've been asking me to go easy on them but I'm a Cradley rider now and I want to get some race wins under my belt again."

"I think I'll enjoy myself at Cradley like I did at Eastbourne because they're two similar clubs."

"They're two of the bigger teams in the National League, they've got a great fan base and they're ambitious just like I am too."

Heathens will be without James Purchase who has suffered a shoulder injury and needs time on the sidelines.

It means an extended run for Bradley Andrews, who was dropped from the side when Layne Cupitt came in last week. Boss Will Pottinger said: "This is an opportunity for Brad."

## Newcomer beats veteran player in summer tournament

IN the first round of Stourbridge Chess Club's summer tournament, the top half of the field played against the bottom half and there were two upset draws.

Colin Woodall was leading against higher graded Julie Wilson but had to settle for a draw. Newcomer Chris Cox also did well to draw against higher rated Jeremy Humphries.

Another new member, Richard Wilkinson won against veteran Tony Taylor. The second round of the five round tournament will be played on June 29.

Stourbridge players dominated the county team with five members representing Worcestershire in the recent national semi-final match for players graded under 140 against Nottinghamshire. Worcestershire won despite being out-graded on every board and are now through to the final. Of the Stourbridge players, rapidly improving Sam Bradley won, Eric Horwill, Paul Sharratt and Tony Shaw drew and Jeremy Humphries was unlucky to lose on time.

For more details on the club, contact Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit [www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk)

## Club juniors get chance to shine



Successful juniors at the Paul Weston Aquathlon

JUNIOR members of Black Country triathletes shone as they competed in both the club triathlon on Saturday and the Paul Weston Aquathlon on Sunday.

In the club triathlon held at Ounsdale Leisure Centre juniors aged between nine and 14 competed at different distances in the pool, on the bike and run to try and gain points towards the club annual race series. Tristar 1 age group was won by Rosie Briscoe for the girls and Owen Ulf for the boys, Tristar 2 was won by Holly Briscoe and Tom Hipwood and Tristar 3 age group was won by Ellie Willis and Joel Humpage.

### Triathlon

It was a great club event that not only provided an opportunity for the children to practice racing competitively against each other but also shows what great support they have for each other cheering their club mates on across the age groups.

Sunday saw most of them race again against juniors from across the West Midlands at The University of Birmingham in the Paul Weston Aquathlon, part of the West Midlands Series.

# STOUR TARGET BRUSHED ASIDE

Stourbridge 1st XI (87 a/o) lost to Shifnal (88-8) by two wickets

**STOURBRIDGE** were left to rue a narrow defeat after being bowled out for 87 in the 47th over in a 55 overs match.

It was no surprise that Shifnal skipper Tom Collins put the home side in after winning the toss on a grassy pitch likely to prove problematic. The challenge was on for Stour batsmen to muster up at least 120 runs to stand any chance of picking up a first victory of the season.

Shifnal's opening bowlers used the conditions to their advantage by restricting Stour openers Alex Bingham and Harshad Patel. Bingham reached nine off 28 balls when he was caught at mid-off off pace man David Woollatt. His wicket opened up the floodgates with Ryan Klein taking the wickets of Zain Ul Hassan and overseas player Tarryck Gabriel, lbw, both out without scoring, leaving Stour on 14-3.

A staunch innings from Patel was ended by first change bowler Jack Edwards, bowled for 17 off 64 balls, an innings that lasted one hour 44 minutes. A more productive vigil came from Stour skipper Matt Bradley who made 38 off 83 in an hour and 47. Stour's tail folded cheaply once Bradley was out, caught on the offside boundary off Jack McIver. Klein took 4-23 off 12 overs.

In reply Steve Leach and Charlie Home took their team score to 21 when 15-year-old Zain Ul Hassan had Leach smartly caught at square leg for 16. He struck again five runs later trapping Home lbw for five.

A bowling change at the pavilion end paid off handsomely as Nabeel Ali had Jack Edwards caught in the gully for one in the 12th over. Three balls later Chris Murrell pulled a ball into his wickets for four.

McIver, batting at four, and number six Joe Chadwick put on 39 priceless runs when the former was out caught off Ali for 11 off 39 balls in the 22nd over with the score on 69.

Umar Khalid had Chadwick caught for 34, with score on 76, Bryn Simmons fell lbw to Ali with 10 runs still required and in the dying moments of the match Klein was caught by Ul Hassan after a 20 metre sprint chase for seven with just one run left for victory. Skipper Tom Collins and David Woollatt survived to get their team to victory. Ali took 5-19 off eight overs.

## Fighters head off to Europe



The squad with sponsors from the Lions Club. Picture: Richard Watkins

ONLY one day remains before young Gloves Karate heads off to the continent to take on the best Europe.

The fighters will represent England for the WKU in the European championships in Germany.

A club spokesman said this was an incredible achievement, adding the whole club was proud of the 12 squad members who have been successfully selected to represent England. Their

call-ups came as a result of many successful competition performances in national events over the past 12 months. The team, led by head instructor Sensei Justin Thomas, flies out tomorrow (Friday), and returns on Sunday.

The spokesman said: "Special thanks must go out to our sponsors, Lions Club for supplying our squad tracksuits, ADI Treatments for our transport, and The Monday Night Club for our new karate suits."

## Glassboys to entertain Shrewsbury

EXCITING winger Matt Dodd has become the latest player to commit to Stourbridge for the 2016/17 season.

Dodd, who joined the Glassboys in March 2015, was an increasingly influential figure last term, with his pace on the right flank causing countless problems for opposing defenders. However, he saw his season cut short by an injury sustained during the Easter Monday clash with Halesowen Town.

The Glassboys return for pre-season training on Saturday, July 2, with boss Gary Hackett hoping to have wrapped up deals for three new players beforehand.

Stourbridge have also added a further home friendly to their pre-season schedule. The Glassboys will host Sky-Bet League One club Shrewsbury Town at Amblecote on Monday, July 25, kick-off 7.45pm. There are links between the two clubs stretching back many years, most notably the transfers of strikers Chic Bates and Ray Haywood from Stourbridge to Shrewsbury in 1974, whilst current Stourbridge manager Hackett is also a former Shrews player.

Stourbridge have also announced the appointment of former defensive stalwart Nathan Bennett as the new assistant-manager of their under-18s youth team.

Bennett chalked up 413 appearances and scored 64 goals for the club between 2005 and 2014 after arriving from Cradley Town. He played a major role in the club's two promotions and three highly memorable FA Cup runs during this time. Bennett, the director of sport at Stourport High School, joins a new-look Glassboys youth team back-room line-up with Kieran Bustin having been named as manager last weekend, Jon Purdie returning as coach.

## OSH rugby skipper faces South Africa

HUW Taylor, a former student at Old Swinford Hospital in Stourbridge, was part of the England Under-20s squad which cemented their place in the semi-finals of the World Rugby tournament this week.

England will now go on to face South Africa in the semi-final after beating Australia 17-13 to top pool B.

Head Coach Martin Haag said "South Africa are going to be physical and well-drilled. We'll keep the focus on ourselves and concentrate on ensuring there is a step up in our performance."

Worcester Warrior Huw from Claverley, joined OSH in 2007. Both he and elder brother Ed were captains of the OSH 1st XV.

★ ★ ★

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